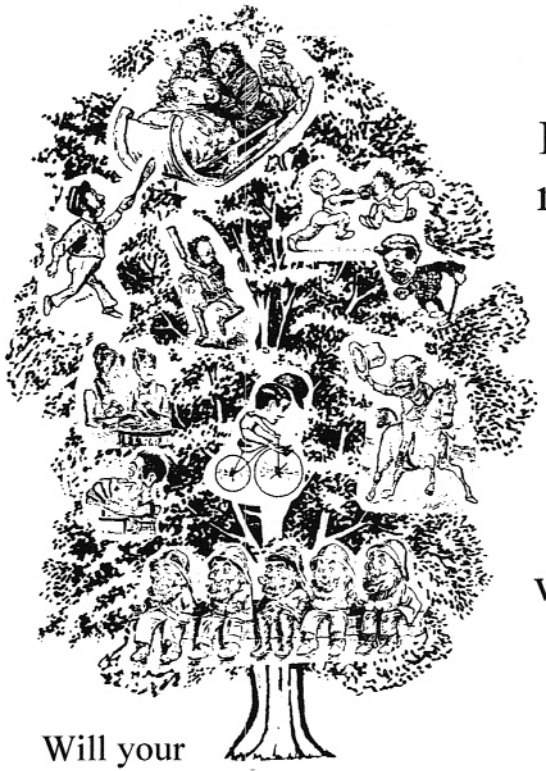
Researching English Education & Health Records...

by Dr. Penelope Christensen

This book surveys the genealogical significance of developments in education and health issues in England.



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Dr. Christensen has lectured extensively on family history and genealogy in Canada, USA and England and on CBC radio. She has published many books on genealogical methodology, British and Scandinavian research, as well as Family History Center resources. These are used as texts for the online courses offered by the University of Toronto in partnership with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, where she leads the English Department.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 13
Abbreviations 16
EDUCATION 17
History of Education System 17
5th Century - 1530s Religious Education 17
Post-Reformation - Grammar Schools 18
From 17th Century - Public Schools 20
Charity & Endowed Schools 20
From 17th Century - Non-Anglican Schools . . . 21
Voluntary Schools & SPCK 22
Private Schools 22
From 1763 - Sunday Schools 24
1808 British Schools (nonconformist) 25
1811 National Schools (Church of England) . . . 25
1818 Ragged Schools 26
Military & Naval Schools 26
19th century Pestalozzi Schools 27
1829 Catholic Schools + 1832 Reform Act 27
1833 Factory & Colliery Schools 27
1844 Workhouse District Schools 28
Chart 1: Summary of Types of Schools 1851 28
Chart 2: London District Workhouse Schools 29
1857 Reformatory Schools 30
19th Century - Preparatory Schools 30
1862 Standards Introduced 30
Chart 3: School Standards 1879 31
1870 Board Schools (Free) 33
1880-1891 Mandatory & Free Education 34
1902 Council Schools 34
Chart 4: Kent Newspaper Article Oct 1902 35
1918 Education Act 36
1944 State secondary school fees abolished . . . 36
Chart 5: School-Leaving Age 37
Technical & Vocational Education 39

Teachers 40
University 41
Adult Education 43
Educational Records 45
Lists of Pupils & Alumni 52
Charity Schools 54
Chart 6: Presentation Papers to Christ's Hospital . 55
Minutes of Governors, Managers & Boards . . . 59
Chart 7: Overseers of Poor Agreement for Lace Teacher 60
Chart 8: Minutes of Trustees of Greencoat School . 61
Chart 9: Extracts from Minutes of Wapping, Charity School 64
Chart 10: Appointment of Schoolmaster Salisbury Methodist School 65
Chart 11: Managers' Minutes Primary School, Bexley, Kent 66
Admission & Discharge Records 69
Chart 12: Admission & Discharge Register Board School, Surrey 70
Chart 13: Jupp in Admission & Discharge Register, Board School 71
Chart 14: Excerpts from Royal Philanthropic Society Records of Girls 72
Chart 15: Royal Philanthropic Society Admission Register for Boy 75
Achievement Certificates & Prizes 77
Chart 16: Religious Instruction Certificate 78
Chart 17: Book-Keeping Certificate from National Union of Teachers 79
Chart 18: Law, Economics & Secretarial Practice Certificate 80
School Log Books 81
Chart 19: Log Book Extracts, Church Street School, Woking Surrey 83
School Photographs 88

Testimonials & Reports 88
Inspectors' Reports 88
Chart 20: Term Report from Day Continuation Institute 89
Chart 21: Testimonial from a National School 90
Chart 22: Report on Village Scholars Meppershall, Bedfordshire 91
School Histories 92
Other School Records 93
HEALTH 95
History 95
Anatomists & Resurrectionists 96
Post-Mortems & Inquests 97
Chart 23: Examples of Coroner's Orders 98
Nurse children 100
Family Nutrition 103
Chart 24: Typical Weekly Budget for 18th Century Family 103
Chart 25: 1953-54 British Ration Book 105
Public Health 107
Chart 26: Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Poor 108
Chart 27: Charles Booth's Notebooks 111
National Identity & Health Service Numbers . 113
Chart 28: Column 1 of Birth Certificate 115
Chart 29: National Registration Identity Card . . . 116
Chart 30: National Health Service Medical Card . 118
Blood Groups 119
DNA 120
HOSPITALS 123
Early History 123
19th Century Hospitals 124
Chart 31: Letters Regarding Hospital Recommendations 126
Poor Law Infirmaries 128

Chart 32: Doctor's Bill to Crayford, Kent Overseers of Poor 128
Army & Navy Hospitals 130
Children's Hospitals 130
Foundlings & Orphans 130
Chart 33: Burials in Withyham, Sussex from the Foundling Hospital 131
Isolation Hospitals 132
Lunatic Asylums 133
Chart 34: Bill & Receipt from Kent Lunatic Asylum to Crayford 137
Chart 35: Application for Chancery Lunacy Inquisition 138
Chart 36: Chancery Lunacy Inquisition 139
Lying-in (Maternity) Hospitals 140
Chart 37: British Lying-in Hospital, Holborn 140
Chart 38: British Lying-in Hospital Register of Births & Baptisms 1791 141
20th Century Hospitals 142
HOSPITALS RECORDS 143
Categories of Records 143
Chart 39: Examples from Dr. John Symcotts Medical Case-Book 1642 144
Location of Records 145
Finding Records in the FHLC 148
Diseases & Causes of Death 149
Medical Terminology 149
Chart 40: Obsolete Medical Terminology 150
Occupational diseases 153
Alcohol-related problems 153
Anthrax 153
Lead poisoning 153
Mercury poisoning 154
Puerperal (or Childbed) Fever 154
Silicosis 154
Epidemics & Major Killers 155

Cancer 155
Cholera 155
Diarrhoea 157
Diphtheria 157
Influenza 158
Measles 158
Plague (Bubonic Plague or Black Death) . 159
Chart 41: Plague in Parish Registers 161
Chart 42: Prevention of the Plague 163
Chart 43: Mortality Schedule for a London Parish 15th-22nd August 1665 164
Scarlet fever 165
Scrofula (King's Evil) 165
Smallpox 166
Syphilis 169
Tuberculosis 169
Typhoid Fever 170
Typhus Fever 170
Whooping cough (Pertussis) 170
MUSEUMS & ARCHIVES 171
Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives & Museum . 171
Florence Nightingale Museum 171
Glenside Hospital Museum 171
Jenner Museum 171
Old Operating Theatre, Museum & Herb Garret 172
Royal College of Surgeons of England Museums 172
Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum . 172
Stephen G. Beaumont Museum 173
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine 173
LIST OF ADDRESSES 175
REFERENCES 179
INDEX 197

INTRODUCTION

There is a considerable variety of education records available to the family historian, but they are much under-used. Your ancestor's economic, social, religious and political background can be ascertained through these records, and in many cases illustrations of the schools, teachers and students have survived. This book describes the kinds of records and something of the history of education in England in order that the records can be better understood.

Some family historians will be able to visit the archives, libraries, and school offices where the original documents are held. Most researchers, however, will be restricted to electronic means, the postal system and the use of their local LDS Family History Center.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has established the most important genealogical library system in the world to assist its members, and others, to identify their ancestors. Since the 1930s they have been microfilming national and local, civil and religious, records all over the world. The master copies of these films are protected from the elements and natural disasters in deep vaults carved out of the granite mountains near Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Family History Library™ in Salt Lake City houses the collection of films, fiches, papers and books and is open to the public. In addition, a network of over 4,000 branches, called Family History Centers (FHCs) operates world wide through the generosity of LDS

church members. The FHLC (Family History Library Catalogue) is now available on the LDS website at http://www.familysearch.org where it is updated daily.

Use of FHC facilities, which include dozens of indexes essential for research, is free. Patrons may borrow microforms (films or fiches) of most original documents and books held at Salt Lake City at their local FHC for a nominal fee, which covers postage and duplication. The reader is advised to consult *Research at Family History Centers*, in this series of Heritage Productions books, for details on how to use the indexes, computer facilities, and other procedures at the FHCs. All genealogists are most grateful to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) for extending the privilege of access to their collection to everyone.

Many of the records quoted in this book are available on either film or fiche. When a film is mentioned it means one available through a FHC. It is necessary to order these by means of their 7-digit LDS, or more properly GSU (Genealogical Society of Utah), number.

Since there are now over two and a half million films available for loan, film numbers start with 0, 1 or 2. Some of the categories of records mentioned here are on long series of films or fiches, and the titles may be confusing. To assist the reader in finding the whole series on the FHLC I have indicated the starting film number of the series. By asking for a *Film/Fiche (Number) Search* and typing in this number the whole series will come up on the screen.

Fiche numbers always start with a 6 and are followed in the present book by a number in parentheses indicating the number of fiches in that set, for example 6026374 (11). Sometimes there is a series of fiche sets and the total number of fiches is then quoted, for example 6020392-411 (21). When ordering fiches in to a Family History Center it is essential to know this quantity as you are charged per fiche. All fiches stay at the Family History Center that ordered them, they are not returned to Salt Lake City.

Kindly note that an asterix* after the microform number indicates *No circulation to Family History Centers* but that doesn't preclude getting photocopies of selected pages by using the *Request for Photocopies Form* #31768. This is an indispensable method for obtaining inexpensive copies of documents and can be downloaded from http://www.familysearch.org. Details and examples of how to order and use microforms, and details and examples of using the *Request for Photocopies* form are given in the author's companion publications *Let's Get Organized* and *Research at Family History Centers*. Information is also given on how to get pertinent information from huge sets of fiches that are beyond the researcher's budget. Please note that from 2002 the charge is now $2 U.S. per page with a minimum order of $4.

I would like to thank David Greene for allowing me to use examples from his Dashwood research.

Abbreviations

CURL	Consortium of University Research Libraries
FHC	Family History Center (over 4,000 worldwide)
FHL	Family History Library in Salt Lake City Website: www.familysearch.org.
FHLC	Family History Library Catalogue
GPI	General Paralysis of the Insane = Tertiary syphilis
GSU	Genealogical Society of Utah (the arm of the LDS church that does the microfilming)
HMI	Her/His Majesty's Inspector
IGI	International Genealogical Index
KEC	Kent Education Committee
LDS	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
LEA	Local Education Authority
LMA	London Metropolitan Archives
LSE	London School of Economics
MAMS	Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
NHS	National Health System (from 1948)
PM	Post mortem examination
PRO	Public Record Office (now TNA) of Great Britain
RSD	Rural Sanitary District
SPCK	Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge
TNA	The National Archives of Great Britain
USD	Urban Sanitary District
WEA	Worker's Educational Association

EDUCATION

History of Education System

There is a huge literature on the history of English schools available from public or university libraries. Some of the better materials are available from the FHL under FHLC - ENGLAND - SCHOOLS and FHLC - GREAT BRITAIN - SCHOOLS, but not all are microfilmed yet. The histories of individual schools are covered in the *Victoria County Histories*, (see the author's *Researching English Contemporary Documents*), where the topographical volumes have been published. Hey devotes over five pages to a concise history of British education, giving further references for schools and schooling.

Chapman's cameo contains considerably more detail and excellent discussion of the history of British education and its records than is covered here. Here we have a briefer overview of a rather complex situation, and then concentrate on practical examples which give names of teachers and pupils.

5th Century - 1530s Religious Education

The first school in England was probably set up by Ninian at the beginning of the 5th century. Chapman has an interesting discussion of this very early period. There followed a few other schools founded by the Roman Catholic church and attached to monasteries or cathedrals to train boys for the priesthood and administrative duties.

In addition, small *chantry schools* tended to grow around an endowed chantry, where priests prayed for the benefactor's soul. *Almonry schools* attached to cathedrals offered scholarships for boys aged 10 or over who could already read and sing. Their board, lodging and education was provided in return for singing in the cathedral choir and running errands for the monks. The curriculum consisted of Latin, grammar and music.

According to Chapman the Danish invasions slowed down educational progress, but King Alfred the Great tried to improve reading skills in English, and by the late 10th century many school books in Latin and Anglo-Saxon were available. The monastery schools which taught Latin for the priesthood continued, but other schools were established during the Middle Ages by trade guilds and by private benefaction.

Post-Reformation - Grammar Schools

After the 1530s most of the monastic and chantry schools were refounded as grammar schools, many from sales of monastic lands (the Anglican *King's Schools*), but many were lost. Education for girls in the nunneries simply ceased after the 1530s for several generations! Private individuals and organizations such as guilds endowed these new grammar schools during the 1550s, thus providing free, or inexpensive basic, classical education for a few poor bright boys as well as children of wealthy families. The development of printing during the late 15th and 16th centuries enabled books to be circulated, although mostly just for the teachers.

The students kept paper journals or *common place books* in which they copied selected texts. There were about 300 grammar schools by the mid-16th century.

By the 17th century there were boarding as well as day grammar schools. Besides the three R's the emphasis was on the classics and the Latin language. In Tudor and Stuart England there was an increasing need for secular administrators, drawn from the middle as well as upper class educated youths. Latin continued to be important as a basis for mathematics, medicine and law, but was also the European language of diplomacy and trade.

When new subjects were introduced they were not covered by the terms of the original benefaction, so grammar schools charged fees for science and other new subjects. This was rectified by the 1840 Grammar Schools Act which allowed the teaching of subjects not in original school statutes. Several of these ancient grammar schools still exist, albeit in modern buildings. Carlisle's mid-19th description of the endowed grammar schools by county and parish has been reprinted and is available on film.

In 1858 grammar schools were given a boost with the introduction of external examinations set by universities and new funds were provided from certain charities from 1869.

From 17th Century - Public Schools

These are independent, private, fee-paying schools, mainly in the south of England, and known as *public* schools because they are good enough to attract pupils from far away. About one third of the 200 still in existence derive from grammar schools founded between the 14th and 17th centuries, especially those that accepted boarding pupils. Some of the best larger ones are household names: Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, Merchant Taylor's, Rugby, St. Paul's, Shrewsbury, Westminster and Winchester.

Charity & Endowed Schools

From the 17th century it is common to find the salary of a schoolmaster, or a parish school for poor children set up, with bequests from the local worthies, or those who remembered their home village after making their fortune in London. At Birdham, Sussex 150 children were in need of education in 1816 and the local people combined their efforts to build a school and schoolmaster's house. Lord John Lennox donated land; the nearby Chichester Blue Coat School trustees donated timbers from a recently-demolished barn; local farmers transported them; £200 for building was raised by donation from individuals and organizations, and over £56 promised in annual contributions. 113 children were admitted in November 1817, their names and sponsors listed by Dewey.

Quite often the local cleric was also the schoolmaster who taught the children in the church itself or in a little room over the south porch specifically designed to house the parish library and school.

The status of village schoolmasters was low and many taught no more than reading, writing and simple accounts. The attitudes of frugality, gratitude and subordination were emphasized and this set the pattern for 19th century charity schools. However, there was a wide variety and some of the best charity schools were in rural areas. Many cities and towns had charity schools provided to educate the poor free of charge in order to alleviate poverty. Some were specifically for city orphans and thus provided boarding (hospitality) and were referred to as *hospitals*, for example Christ's Hospital, London (see Chart 6). Other charity schools wore specific uniforms and were known respectively as *Bluecoat, Greencoat* or *Greycoat Schools*.

From 17th Century - Non-Anglican Schools

Various nonconformist and Jewish groups started schools and training academies for their own ministries and these blossomed after the Act of Toleration of 1689 (see *Researching English Non-Anglican Records*). Some became leading educational institutions providing a broad syllabus, including science, which attracted those from other faiths including the established church. The best, such as those at Warrington, Northampton and Hackney, were considered superior to the (Church of England) universities. It should be noted that non-Anglican families tended to prefer practical training in industrial, business and scientific fields, whilst Anglicans concentrated on classic academic education. However, many schools set up by, for example, Quakers were sufficiently excellent to attract children who were not of that faith.

Likewise non-Catholic girls were sent to convents as they were perceived to be superior to local alternatives. In many cases, less affluent parents might sacrifice their religious preference for a less expensive education provided by another institution.

Voluntary Schools & SPCK (1698)

The term *voluntary* refers to the fact that such schools were voluntarily provided by various societies usually of a religious nature. The most prominent early one was the *Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge*, created in 1698, which had founded at least 1500 schools for the industrial poor by 1750. There was no charge for the pupils as the schools were funded by voluntary subscriptions. Many thousands of children, including girls, aged 7-11 or over were given a basic education, but still the SPCK reported in 1810 that two-thirds of poor children had no schooling at all. Many SPCK schools were taken over by the *National Schools* movement in the first half of the 19th century.

Private Schools

There was a great variety of small *private schools* ranging from mere child-minding facilities to superior private academies listed in trade and commercial directories. The 1870 Education Act, as well as a growing awareness of the necessity of teachers having knowledge and training, brought about the demise of all except the very best. Private schools did not, on the whole, teach religion, and this made them attractive to many parents.

There were several types including:

- *Dame schools* for those aged 3-7 or 8 run by a local woman usually in her own home; one of the few ways that a spinster or widow could earn a living. The fee was 3d or 4d a week but there was no guarantee as to the quality of instruction. They have had a bad press but in fact some were good (Stephens).

- *Common day schools*, usually run by a man, which took children from about ages 5-12 at a low fee.

- *Local craft schools* were available in some rural areas teaching straw-plaiting, knitting, lacemaking or glovemaking. They took children from age 3 with the intention of providing useful family income.

- *Tutors & governesses*. In the mid-19th century the upper classes may have received private education at home from a tutor; the younger ones and the girls would have had governesses. English tutors and governesses could earn 10 times as much salary serving abroad, either with families or in English schools (Hall).

- *Girls' schools*. During the 19th century there was a greater demand for education of girls and many quality girls' day- and boarding-schools were patronized by the upper-middle classes. The curriculum included reading in Latin, Greek, French and Italian, as well music, dancing, household management skills and English.

From 1763 - Sunday Schools

Sunday Schools that taught reading so that children could read the bible probably started in Catterick, Yorkshire in 1763. Robert Raikes helped to spread the movement, hiring women teachers in Gloucester in 1780 and charging pupils 1d a week. Five years later the *Society for the Establishment and Support of Sunday Schools throughout the Kingdom of Great Britain* became active. Its grandiose, patronizing aims were *to encourage industry and virtue, dispel the darkness of ignorance, diffuse the light of knowledge [and] bring men cheerfully to submit to their station.*

The inter-denominational *Sunday School Union* was founded in 1803 to foster such schools in and around London. Initially Sunday schools were a middle-class institution but rapidly became essentially working class in character. Sunday schools were of great advantage to the poor, who needed to work during the week for the household budget. They could learn to read on Sundays since paid work was rarely available on that day, and they were taught by volunteers, who probably brought more enthusiasm to a task they enjoyed. Whether or not they attended a day school, nearly two-thirds of the population aged 5-14 attended a Sunday school by 1851, and at the peak in 1906 this rose to over 80%.

1808 British Schools (nonconformist)

In 1797 an Anglican, Dr. Andrew Bell, and in 1801 a Quaker, Joseph Lancaster, both proposed an inexpensive monitorial system of education where paid staff supervised older pupils who taught groups of younger ones. In 1808 the latter's followers formed the *Royal Lancastrian Society*, later the *British & Foreign School Society*; their archive is listed under Addresses. Most pupils came from nonconformist families and by 1851 there were 1500 British Schools. Methodists and Baptists also established their own schools, and all are classed as *voluntary schools*. Government funding aid and supervision of standards were provided from 1833, but the number of British Schools dropped after the 1870 Education Act.

1811 National Schools (Church of England)

Rising to the challenge of the successful nonconformist British Schools movement, the *National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church* provided alternative *voluntary schools* in 1811. This organization gradually took over the former SPCK schools, and by 1851 had over 17,000 schools. Government funding aid and supervision of standards were provided from 1833. The Society started to decline after the 1870 Education Act.

1818 Ragged Schools

John Pounds, a Portsmouth shoemaker, started a free school for the poorest children in his neighbourhood; his story is related by Schollar. Others followed his idea and in 1844 Lord Shaftesbury organized a union of Ragged Schools which provided a basic education and industrial training for the urban poor in England. Similar schools were offered in the evening and on Sundays, and there were about 200 Ragged Schools by the time Forster's 1870 Education Act arrived. Montague's history of the Ragged School Movement can be consulted for details.

Military & Naval Schools

Chapman claims that the first written reference to a military school was in 1662 from the officers of the East India Company in Madras. *The Royal Military Academy* in Woolwich, Kent began in 1741 for both officer cadets and raw recruits for lower ranks of artillery and engineers. Schools for serving soldiers' children (boys only at first; girls from at least 1840), soldiers' orphans, and for backward soldiers were set up in various places. By 1858 there were over 11,000 students in army schools, and an organized *Corps of Army Schoolmasters & Mistresses*.

Some seacoast towns had schools of navigation and navy school masters were aboard during the late 17th century as well, but were of poor quality. The *Naval Academy* was founded at Portsmouth in 1720, and after re-organization ended up at Greenwich as the *Royal Naval College*.

19th century Pestalozzi Schools

Schools based on the ideas of the Swiss educational reformer Johann Pestalozzi were formed in England in the 19th century. Students learned from direct experience instead of by rote, this being the foundation of modern primary education.

1829 Catholic Schools + 1832 Reform Act

Between the reformation and 1829 Catholics who could afford to do so sent their children to Catholic schools on the continent or hired private tutors and, as they were not permitted to attend British universities, older students also studied abroad. The 1829 *Catholic Emancipation Act* removed discrimination against Roman Catholic schools and teachers, and they were able to build their own schools and appoint Catholic teachers. Now all denominational schools received government financial aid.

1833 Factory & Colliery Schools

Robert Owen and David Dale had established schools for factory children early in the 19th century. Children aged 9-13 and in employment were now required to receive a basic education for 2 hours six days a week. As a result a number of *Factory Schools* were established, however only about 40% of children in the manufacturing areas were receiving such education 10 years later

1844 Workhouse District Schools

In 1723 workhouses were allowed to engage a schoolmaster with the educational emphasis on practical skills so that the children could obtain an apprenticeship and 'get off the parish'. The Commissioners of the *New Poor Law* of 1834 were allowed to appoint a teacher for workhouse children, and it was thought better to hold classes outside the workhouse itself. Thus many unions built *District Schools* to serve those from several workhouses. A summary of types of schools existing in 1851 is shown in Chart 1, and the London districts and their constituent *poor law unions* are given in Chart 2.

Chart 1: Summary of Types of Schools 1851

Class & Support	Purpose or Type
I. General taxation	Military, Naval, Woods & Forests, Corporation, Workhouse, Prison
II. Endowment	Collegiate, Grammar, Other
III. Religious bodies	Church of England, Church of Scotland, United Presbyterians, Presbyterian Church in England, Scottish Presbyterians, other Presbyterians, Independents, Baptists, Society of Friends, Unitarians, Moravians, Wesleyan Methodists, Methodist New Connexion, Primitive Methodists, Bible Christians, Wesleyan Methodist Association, Lady Huntingdon's Connection, Calvinistic Methodist, New Church, Lutherans, French Protestants, German Missionary Society, Isolated Congregations, Roman Catholics, Jews
IV. Other Public Schools	Ragged, Orphan, Blind, Deaf & Dumb, Idiots, Factory, Colliery, Chemical Works, Foundry, Mechanics Institution, Industrial, Agricultural, Railway, Philanthropic Society's Farm, other subscription schools

Chart 2: London District Workhouse Schools

District Name	Dates	Constituent Poor Law Unions
Brentwood	1877-1885	St. Leonard Shoreditch Hackney
Central London	1849-1930	St. Saviour Southwark City of London
Finsbury	1868-1869	St. James Clerkenwell St. Luke Finsbury
Forest Gate	1868-1897	Whitechapel Poplar Hackney (until 1877)
Kensington & Chelsea	1876-1930	St. Mary Abbots, Kensington St. Luke Chelsea
North Surrey	1849-1930	Wandsworth Clapham Lewisham Croydon Kingston Richmond
South Metropolitan	1849-1902	St. Mary Magdalen Bermondsey St. Mary Rotherhithe St. Giles Camberwell St. Olave Southwark Greenwich Woolwich Stepney St. Mary Newington
West London	1868-1930	St. George Hanover Square St. James Paddington Fulham

- The number of these schools fell after the 1870 Education Act.

1857 Reformatory Schools

The *Industrial Schools Act* allowed Justices of the Peace to send wayward or homeless children to *Industrial (*or *Reformatory) Schools* to learn a trade. They were the main corrective establishments until *Borstal Schools* were introduced in 1908 as part of the prison system. In 1933 industrial schools were renamed *Approved Schools*.

Just to confuse us, the term *industrial school* was used later in the 19th century for entirely different state-aided schools in which girls were trained for domestic service, and boys learned a craft.

19th Century - Preparatory Schools

The *Prep School* developed in the second half of the 19th century to prepare pupils aged 5-8 for admission to a *Public School* (q.v.) which themselves enjoyed a revival at this time.

1862 Standards Introduced

The *revised code* specified *six standards of achievement*, with a seventh added in 1882. The subjects in which each child was tested annually comprised reading, writing, arithmetic (see Chart 3), with plain sewing for girls. By 1879 grammar, geography and history had been added as specific examination subjects. Government grants were now based on attendance and how many children passed the different standards.

Chart 3: School Standards 1879

READING — Tested in the ordinary class books, if approved by the Inspector; but these books must be of reasonable length and difficulty and unmarked.		
St'd	**Age**	**Level of difficulty**
I	6-7	To read a short paragraph from a book, not words of one syllable.
II	7-8	To read with intelligence a short paragraph from an elementary reading book
III	8-9	To read with intelligence a short paragraph from a more advanced reading book
IV	9-10	To read with intelligence a few lines of prose or poetry selected by the inspector
V	10-11	Improved reading
VI	11-12	Reading with fluency and expression

WRITING		
St'd	**Age**	**Level of difficulty**
I	6-7	Copy in manuscript character a line of print, on slates or in copy books. At choice of managers; and write from dictation a few common words
II	7-8	A sentence from the same book, slowly read once, and then dictated. Copy books (large or half-text) to be shown
III	8-9	A sentence slowly dictated once from the same book. Copy books to be shown (small hand, capital letters and figures)
IV	9-10	Eight lines slowly dictated once from a reading book. Copy books to be shown (improved small hand)
V	10-11	Writing from memory the substance of a short story read out twice; spelling, grammar, and handwriting to be considered.
VI	11-12	A short theme or letter; the composition, spelling, grammar, and handwriting to be considered

ARITHMETIC * The work of girls will be judged more leniently that of boys		
St'd	**Age**	**Level of difficulty**
I	6-7	Notation and numeration up to 1,000. Simple addition and subtraction of numbers of not more than four figures, and the multiplication table to 6 times 12
II	7-8	Notation and numeration up to 100,000. The four simple rules to short division (inclusive)
III	8-9	Notation and numeration up to 1,000,000. Long division and compound addition and subtraction (money)
IV	9-10	Compound rules (money) and reduction (common weights and measures). The weights and measures taught in public elementary schools should be only such as are really useful; such as Avoirdupois Weight, Long Measure, Liquid Measure, Time Table, Square and Cubical Measure, and any measure which is connected with the industrial occupations of the district.
V	10-11	Practice, bills of parcels, and simple proportion
VI	11-12	Proportion, vulgar and decimal fractions

* The author had a teacher with the same attitude in a girls grammar school in 1954—which explains a lot!

1870 Board Schools (Free)

Despite all the activity from charitable and religious bodies combined with legislation the provision of schooling could not keep up with the population growth in the urban centres. It was also inferior to that of France, Germany and the Netherlands (Friar). In 1840 it was reported that only one-third of working class children were able to read 'fairly' and that no more than 50% regularly attended school. In 1843 it was estimated that only two-thirds of adult males and less than half adult females had a basic literacy.

Forster's Education Act of 1870, (followed by a similar one in Scotland in 1872), made secular elementary education freely available to all. The country was divided into about 2,500 districts each administered by a *School Board* and secular *Board Schools* established where there were no other schools. In larger cities huge Victorian Gothic board schools were erected, many of these three-or four-storey buildings being still in service.

However, practice did not always follow legislation rapidly. Hey notes most aptly, "This threat stimulated the Anglican squires of many a village to improve educational opportunities of the poor by building or rebuilding a National School before the local board could take responsibility." By 1876 (Sandon's Act) legislation was in place to enshrine the principle that all children should receive at least an elementary education.

1880-1891 Mandatory & Free Education

In 1880 Mundella's *Education Act* made education (but not attendance at school) compulsory from ages 5-10, and elementary education became free in 1891. Ladbrooke discusses attendance problems and the influence of charges for schooling on the poor.

1902 Council Schools

The voluntary schools had gradually declined in number during the late 19th century owing to competition from the Board schools. In 1902 the educational system was completely re-organized. *Balfour's Education Act* transferred provision of elementary, secondary and technical education from the old *School Boards* to 330 *Local Education Authorities (LEAs)* under a central Board of Education. The change was not welcomed by many, as is shown in Chart 4.

Chart 4: Kent Newspaper Article Oct 1902

Kent Schools Taken Over by County Education Committee

Despite a large demonstration in London and massive opposition from Liberals and non-conformists, the sweeping new powers contained in the Education Act – introduced in the House of Commons on March 23rd – are now being implemented.

School boards have been abolished, local councils are taking responsibility for primary and secondary schools and, in Kent, the county council has created an education committee.

The KEC has taken responsibility for secondary education throughout the county, with just one exception. Canterbury remains in the hands of the city council. One problem which faces the new authority is how to redress the balance between boys and girls. It is estimated that 2,348 boys are receiving education in the grammar schools, established since the previous Education Act, but only 1,726 girls are attending similar schools. Many consider this anomaly to be a great scandal.

As far as elementary education is concerned the KEC is responsible for only about half the county area as 16 of the larger towns remain independent. Also, more than two-thirds of the elementary schools are controlled by denominational bodies which retain statutory powers including the appointment of teachers.

In the few months it has been established the KEC has grown to be the fourth largest education authority in the country and, through its technical education committee, has already made considerable advances, awarding grants to 32 technical institutions across the county. It has also set up three new institutions including a horticultural college for women at Swanley, an agricultural college at Wye and a school of domestic economy at Maidstone.

The board schools were now called *Council Schools* and this system remained in place until the 1960s with improvements, such as provision of school meals from 1906 and a school medical service from 1907.

1918 Education Act

It was not until 1918 that government grants enabled all elementary schools under their control to eliminate fees.

Richardson says Junior Schools (ages 7-11) were established in 1918 but were not common until 1926.

1944 State secondary school fees abolished

Further changes were made after WWII with Butler's 1944 *Education Act*, which replaced the Board with a Ministry of Education. Elementary education was divided into *infant* (5-7) and *junior* (7-11) schools. Secondary schooling was divided into *grammar*, *technical* and *modern schools* with pupils being graded with the famous (or infamous) 11+ examination. There was a second chance to upgrade your placement at age 13 for the so-called 'late-bloomers', and the school-leaving age was raised to 15 (Chart 5), although grammar school pupils stayed until 16 and could proceed to 6th form studies for a further two years. It took until the mid-1960s to completely phase out the old all-age (5-15) schools, and by 1965 there was a reversal to *comprehensive* secondary schools in some counties.

Chart 5: School-Leaving Age

Before 1880	No requirement
1880	10, if attendance had been satisfactory
1893	11
1899	12
1918	14
1944	15
1964	16

Williams, (quoted by Cannon), summarizes the development of education of children by describing the four idealogies which have, and still do, play a part in the provision of schooling:

- *Élite education*, demanded by the landed gentry, emphasized culture, athletics, character-building and service.

- *The middle classes* largely supported education that prepared pupils for their future occupations, particularly when patronage was replaced by examination in the civil service and professions.

- *Working class* children were thought to need a utilitarian, restricted curriculum giving them the practical skills necessary for manual labour.

- *The democratic ideal* that all pupils are entitled to develop their potential in whatever school they attend.

The change in attitude towards children between 1800 and 1914 was caused by developing social, political and economic structures. Earlier on children were deemed to be mini-adults expected, at least in working class households, to contribute economically to the household. They were not thought of as vulnerable or ignorant. By the early 20th century this attitude had changed to where they were considered innocent and in need of protection and education (Hendrick).

A note of caution regarding terminology. The terms *elementary* and *secondary education* have not been consistently applied throughout English history. We now think of *grammar schools* as providing only secondary education, but in former times they had elementary pupils as well. Middle class *private schools* and some *charity schools* provided both elementary and secondary education. Each school should be examined in historical context.

When considering the spelling of names and accuracy of original documents family historians would be well advised to remember the force of the 1870 and 1880 Education Acts. Ninety percent of those born after 1874 received an elementary education, however 90% of those born prior to 1855 did not.

Technical & Vocational Education

Nowadays we think of this as being for those over 16 who have achieved a secondary school certificate of some kind. It was not always thus, for example universities catered largely for 15 to 19-year-olds coming out of private/public or grammar schools. Boys destined for the *clergy* went to Oxford or Cambridge, the only English universities until 1826. The most important early *medical* training centres were not in England, but at Edinburgh and other Scottish universities and at Leyden in Holland.

After finishing public or grammar school boys wishing to take up *law* typically entered one of the London Inns of Chancery and Inns of Court whose admission registers date from 1669 (Hey), but may have gone to a university instead or in addition. Apprenticeships in trades usually started at age 14. Further information on these may be found in Chapman, and in the author's *Researching English Occupations: Professions and Trades*.

LEAs (Local Education Authorities) were also given responsibility for further education in 1944, taking over existing facilities and building new colleges of art, commerce, technology and teacher training. Polytechnics began in 1969 and achieved university status in 1992.

Teachers

Early teachers were all clergymen appointed by the Roman Catholic church. After the reformation the Anglican church continued the firm hold on education, teachers being required by a canon of 1603 to be licensed by a bishop. These licenses will be found in diocesan records with the occasional dismissal for heretical teaching, whilst prosecutions of unlicensed teachers can be found in the church court records. Jews, Quakers, and after the Act of Toleration in 1689 other nonconformists, were permitted to teach and have their own schools.

Grammar school teachers were often clergymen on meagre stipends, receiving an additional salary whilst waiting for a more lucrative benefice.

Few head teachers at the beginning of the 19th century had been college-trained, although many had studied part-time for a certificate. Many had risen from the ranks of the stipendiary monitors who had no formal training and could be as young as 11. In 1846 the *pupil-teacher system* was introduced whereby 13-year-olds were appointed and paid for a five-year period apprenticing as teachers, learning their own lessons in the evenings. If they performed well they could go, by payment or scholarship, on a two- or three -year teacher training course which opened up a new career path, particularly for young women. The minimum age for apprenticeship as a pupil-teacher was raised to 14 in 1877, and this system lasted until 1906.

Records of *National Society* teachers trained at the Central School 1812-1851, St. Marks Chelsea 1841-1848, and Battersea 1844-1848 are kept at the Church of England Record Society and copies of the National Society Monthly Paper 1849-1874 and the School Guardian 1875-1930s are also available there, see http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/. Records of the nonconformist *British & Foreign School Society* are at Brunel University, Osterley Campus, Borough Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5DU; Bartle has written a brief description. Teachers records begin in 1804 for men and 1806 for women, and there is a detailed online catalogue available at:
www.bfss.org.uk/archive/bfss_catalogue.pdf.

The Teachers Registration Council Registers 1902-1948 are at the Society of Genealogists and comprise 160 volumes giving date, number, name of school at which employed, certificates, memberships, training, and career (Cleaver).

University

For hundreds of years the main function of the universities was to prepare young men for church ministry, as well as provide an education for the aristocracy and the occasional brilliant commoner or peasant. In England, Oxford was established during the 12th century and Cambridge during the 13th. There were four early Scottish ones, St. Andrews (1410), Glasgow (1451), Aberdeen (1494) and Edinburgh (1582) and an Irish one founded in 1571 - Trinity College, Dublin. There were no early Welsh universities, most students from Wales going to Jesus College, Oxford.

All of the early universities were ecclesiastical establishments responsible to Rome. Students were mostly aged 15-19 and were considered clerics, with heads shaved and wearing gowns and hoods like monks, hence the origin of modern academic dress. The early curriculum consisted of seven liberal arts: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music (the quadrivium) and rhetoric, grammar and logic (the trivium) all taught in Latin! Consequently clerics and scholars from all parts of Europe could converse with one another in this lingua franca.

Control passed out of the Pope's hands at the Reformation in the 1530s and teaching became more secular. Some new colleges were created at Oxford and Cambridge but no others until the *redbrick universities* commenced in the 19th century, the first being London (1826) and Durham (1837).

Significant numbers of new universities were established in the late 19th century, followed by another wave in the last four decades of the 20th century, including the long-distance Open University which awarded its first degrees in 1973, and the more informal *University of the Third Age* (U_3A) providing educational opportunities for the over-fifties. The foundation dates of the major British universities, including the halls and colleges of Oxford & Cambridge, are given by Richardson.

Prior to 1871 Oxford, Cambridge and Durham admitted only Anglican students, but London was non-sectarian from its foundation in 1826. Of-course the situation was reversed before 1534, when Oxford and Cambridge were affiliated with the Roman Catholic church so students were all, at least nominally, Catholic

Although a few women did attend Girton College, Oxford from 1869, or Newnham College, Cambridge from 1871, London was the first university to admit women to its degrees, in 1878.

Adult Education

The *Adult School Movement* was established by the Quakers in the 19th century to provide religiously-based, but undenominational education.

The first *Mechanics Institute* was established in 1810 in Chester and others followed rapidly, especially in the industrial areas of Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire; there were 70 in England by 1825. They were intended for mechanics (which meant craftsmen and manual workers) but were not as successful as had been hoped, largely because the students lacked sufficient prior elementary schooling.

Working Men's Colleges were initiated in 1842 in Sheffield for both men and women. Classes were offered at 6.30am and 7.30pm and cost 9d per week. More than a dozen similar colleges came into being during the next 25 years, generally open to those over 16 who were proficient in the three R's.

In 1867 the *University extension movement* was founded to provide adult education opportunities. The latter part of the 19th century also saw the formation of middle class musical, scientific, philosophical, and literary societies as well as book clubs and circulating libraries.

Night Schools were established from 1889 where capable young people could study part-time for occupations previously closed to those from working class backgrounds.

The *Association to Promote the Higher Education of Working Men* was established by Albert Mansbridge in 1903. The first branch started in Reading in 1904 and in 1905 the group adopted its present name, the *Workers' Educational Association (WEA)*, under which a plethora of courses, including genealogy, are offered to adults nowadays. A history of the adult school movement is provided by Rowntree & Binns.

Educational Records

National records concerning general educational policy, institution files, local education authorities, endowments file, and inspectorate files as well as the *Reports of the Charity Commissioners* (see Hey), are kept at TNA (The National Archives). A very readable guide to their contents and organization is by staff member Morton, and their downloadable *domestic records* leaflets are also helpful (see http://www.pro.gov.uk) for:

- Education: Elementary & Secondary Schools #65
- Education: Records of Special Services #23
- Education: Records of Teachers #63
- Education: Technical & Further Education #24
- Elementary (Primary) Schools #67

This collection is useful to the student of the history of education as well as those seeking information on a particular school. Items such as the authorization, building, financing, surveys and historical background of schools is likely to be at TNA. Occasionally one finds lists of pupils' names or other details about individuals, perhaps where it has been submitted as evidence in a court case. Morton has an illustration of an attendance book for Bottoms Industrial School, serving the children employed in a mill in Rochdale, Lancs. Twelve children are listed with 2 hours of schooling each for six days 18-23 March 1839. PROCAT, the catalogue of TNA does not yet allow the researcher to identify specific school records online; research has to be done at TNA at Kew, London.

In most cases the best way to locate and begin researching a specific school is to approach the *county or local archive*. If they don't have the extant records of teachers, pupils and daily school life in their area they usually know if they have survived and where they are. Note that many schools have had a change of name, or been amalgamated with another one, or have been known by more than one name. Thus the charity school in Westminster originally called the *Hospital of St. Margaret*, was also known as *King Charles' Hospital* and *The Green Coat School* (Cole).

If you have a name of a school then try writing to the head teacher at the school itself, as Beauchamp relates when seeking his father's records. The headmaster sent photocopies of admission registers, and there was a notation 'D of York, Dover'. Suspecting it to be another school he just wrote to the principal at that address. The reply was from the Duke of York Military School in Dover and he received much interesting material from them.

The present head teacher may know of a local historian interested in the school, who probably knows what records survive and their location. Do contribute your memories, copies of photos or other memorabilia to ongoing historical projects, too. Some records have made their way to local libraries or education departments instead of archives. The Guildhall Library, which covers the city of London, has a website at http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/gh/brhkes.html that gives, for example, a history and details of pupil records of King Edward's Schools 1553-1927.

Much information about local schools in the 19th century can be found in the local newspapers and parish magazines, particularly special events such as school excursions, sports days, speech days (graduations) and fund-raising events. Earlier records can be found in vestry minutes, overseers accounts and other parish chest materials. The author's companion text, *Researching English Poor Law & Parish Chest Records* details these latter sources.

National and British School records may be at the school, or with the diocesan office or other denominational headquarters for the area. Since there was no legislation, or even consistent local regulations, regarding deposit of old school records, many were simply thrown out because of space restrictions or when schools were amalgamated or new buildings erected. Like other old documents not properly cared for, they may have suffered from fire, mould, mice, wartime activities, and general neglect. King tells the tale of the discovery of old school records in Cornwall when renovations to the old school building were being made.

The larger denominations had national magazines for teachers like the *School Guardian*, held at the Church of England Record Centre, which gives items such as list of teachers examined for certificates, situations vacant/wanted, and some births, marriages and deaths. *Board School records* are kept at county or county borough record offices, but may still be at the school itself. Records were kept in more detail and much more consistently from 1862 in schools receiving government grants. This was due to the fact that teachers' salaries

now partly depended upon attendance records and the success of pupils in examinations.

The grants were replaced by *payment by results* whereby schools were given four shillings for every child in attendance, which is why one sees *average weekly attendances* noted in school log books. In addition, eight pence was given for each annual examination subject passed by each child in reading, writing and arithmetic. The payments increased and changed over the years, for example to provide teachers and materials for specific subjects (see Chart 19). A little-known alternative route to finding birth information is that *Local Education Authorities* sometimes retain particulars delivered to them by registrars from birth certificates from 1876, which were required to ensure that every child was educated (Rogers).

Regimental and *naval* histories are good starting points for army and navy schools, and some of the older records will be at TNA and may also be filmed. Records of army schools can be found with regimental archivists, and the admiralty has details of naval schools.

The *Consortium of University Research Libraries* (CURL) at: http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk provides a single point of access to descriptions of archival collections that are available for research in *universities and colleges*. It includes descriptions for the archives of a wide range of individuals, families, and organisations, from medieval times right up to the present day.

There are very few records before the 19th century for anything except the public and grammar schools, and the foundation dates for many of the old-established schools are given by Richardson.

Workhouse school records are generally with other poor law records for the area at county or local archives. An example of using district school records is provided by Nightingale. Likewise *denominational school*, including *Sunday school*, records are likely to be at church headquarters if they are not at the school, church or local archives.

Few records would have been kept and practically none survive for the various small *dame schools*, *common day schools* and other *private schools*. There may be meagre details in the periodical bishops' visitations where the clergyman noted what schools were in his parish, whether they taught the catechism, and perhaps the names of teachers. These visitation reports may also be useful in reporting an absence of schools, and indicating if children travelled to another village to attend. *Bond* provided a detailed descriptive article on several of the more well-known charity schools and the life of their pupils. *Friendly Societies* sometimes involved themselves in education, for example the *Amicable Society School* started in Rotherhithe, Surrey in 1739 and merged with the *United Society School* in 1849. Records from 1777-1874 can be found in Southwark Local Studies Library, but have not yet been filmed. They include 6,000 names and Shilham has prepared an index, and described the functioning of these schools.

He includes the types of annual prizes given to about 30 students—commonly a knife, prayer book or other 'improving' text, workbox, or (once) a silver thimble.

A wealth of description, illustrations, references and school museums to visit, mainly concerning the 19th and 20th centuries, can be found in the Shire book on *The Victorian Schoolroom* (May) and Pamela Horn's *The Victorian and Edwardian Schoolchild.*

Your survey of family records may turn up some of the following 19th-20th century items relevant to individual members of your family: work books, reports, certificates, examination papers, text books, school class photographs, testimonials (school-leaver's character references), scholastic prizes, badges, athletic trophies or attendance medals. Ask the older generation for them specifically as they may not realize how interesting they will be to you. Occasionally one can find earlier items such as 17th -18th century samplers, or a museum collection of memorabilia for a notable ancestor or a local school. Once you have some clues on names of schools and dates of attendance you can then proceed to find the school records.

Census records include lists of staff and boarder pupils as they were taken during term time. Where children living at home were noted as *scholars* this was intended to indicate that they attended some kind of school, perhaps only on Sundays. However, it was often misinterpreted to mean 'of school age'; and it certainly did not mean that they were academically precocious!

Wealthier families often had a tradition of attendance at a particular public or grammar school so once you have identified it search for earlier and later generations. Finding which school your middle-class ancestor attended is more difficult in cities where there are a number of schools within reach. Commercial directories list schools from the mid-19th century, sometimes in the description of the town but also in the trade & commercial section. It's a case of searching each in turn.

Wood devoted two articles to school records in 1997. Online resources are beginning to appear, such as the *National Grid for Learning* at http://www.ngfl.gov.uk which has a growing number of websites for present-day schools. The *UK Schools History* website is at http://chrisb.4ce.co.uk/ where can be found an ever-increasing variety of school histories, photographs, censuses, extracts of admission registers and log books and lists of which school records survive and where they are located. For more information on websites for education read Cavell's 2003 article.

School registers, histories and other records are accessible through public and university libraries, and the Society of Genealogists has published a catalogue of their excellent collection.

Centenaries are often commemorated by exhibitions or the compilation of a school history. Webb's comprehensive index of school records of (Greater) London is a most useful publication.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has quite a few school registers for which a list was published in 1981 (see Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints & Jacob). Some of their collection have been filmed; they are easiest to find by searching under FHLC - PLACE NAME - SCHOOLS or by KEYWORD.

Lists of Pupils & Alumni

Most of the universities, colleges, public schools, anciently-endowed grammar schools, as well as many old charity schools, have published registers of their pupils and alumni. These are most informative, typically giving the pupil's date of birth, father's name, period at the school and some details of his or her later career.

Some editions give the name of a former school or tutor even back to the 17th century, enabling further research to be attempted. Some registers also have biographical notes on the staff.

Examples of published registers for public schools are the four volumes for Eton covering 1441-1877, and the register for Haileybury 1862-1946 on film 0973294. Herber gives further examples.

Many schools have published annual magazines giving current happenings at the school as well as news about *old boys* and *old girls* such as higher education, career, address, marriage and births. In 1964 Jacobs compiled a list of registers of universities, colleges and schools.

Titford has two most useful articles on school registers, and another two on the registers of higher education institutions including vocational, Anglican, Roman Catholic and nonconformist colleges.

Sometimes lists of pupils turn up in unexpected places, such as the 1898 list of senior scholars at the Countess of Warwick's Secondary & Technical School, Bigods, Dunmow, Essex discovered in a prominent chemist's papers (Barrett & Goodgame). Happily with electronic indexing and search facilities such items will be more findable than in the past.

Lists of alumni for Oxford (Emden, Foster) and Cambridge (Venn) and many others have been microfilmed. Search catalogues under the name of the university and *alumni/alumnae, graduates* or *matriculation*. Such a search on the FHLC for Aberdeen yields lists for:

- 1495-1860 (Anderson),
- 1860-1970 (Donald & Macdonald) and
- 1860-1925 (Watt).

These are valuable indexes, but more details can often be found at the universities and colleges themselves. The archivist of the British Federation of Women Graduates, Nancy Edwards, has given a history of this organization.

Charity Schools

Most surviving records of charity schools will be found in county archives or local record offices, and some have been filmed. Christ's Hospital, London, (a school, not a hospital in today's sense), was established in 1553 for orphans or those whose parents were unable to care for them. There are 357 films covering 1554-1911, with later dates still kept at the School. The records concerning pupils comprise the chronologically arranged *presentation papers* in which children can be traced by means of the indexes called *children's registers*. *Presentation papers* for boys and girls seeking admission to Christ's Hospital contain:

- Completed petition by the parent or guardian of the child giving personal & financial circumstances
- Certification by the minister, churchwardens or others from the parish
- Copies of the baptism entry of the child and the marriage entry of the parents.

Most are very ordinary people but there are some well-known men who got their start here, such as Charles Lamb, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, James Henry Leigh Hunt, and the 4th son of the poet Robert Burns, which entry from film 1067350 is used in Chart 6.

Chart 6: Presentation Papers to Christ's Hospital for James Glencairn Burns 1802

#22 2nd April 1802
To the Right Honourable, Right Worshipful, and Worshipful the Governors of CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, LONDON
The humble petition of *Jean Burns*
Of the parish of *Dumfries in Scotland*
Humbly showeth
That the Petitioner's *husband died about three years ago leaving her with a family of four children and without sufficient means for their support.*
Therefore *she* humbly beseeches your Worships, in your usual Pity and Charity to distressed Men, poor Widows, and Fatherless Children, to grant the Admission of *one of her said children* into CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, named *James Glencairn Burns* of the age of *eight* years & *upwards,* there to be Educated and brought up among other poor Children
BORN-
BAPT 13 August 1794
[the following section has not been filled in for this pupil, see explanation in next paper]
We, the Minister, Church-wardens, and others of the Parish ----- whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do Certify That ------- Father of the said ------- [was/was/not] a Freeman of the City of London, and Company of ------ and that the said Child is at present of the Age of --- Years and upwards, and is no Foundling nor maintained at the Parish Charge; and that we know of no probable Means for the Education of the said Child, unless the said Governors of CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, should admit [him/her] into the said Hospital; which, if they shall be pleased to do, We, together with the [mother/guardian] of the said Child, do fully consent and agree to leave the said Child to the Disposal of the Governors of the said Hospital, to be bound an Apprentice to such Trade or Calling, whether for Land or Sea Employments, as they shall judge the said Child most fit and proper for; And we, together with the [mother/guardian] of the said Child, do promise and oblige ourselves not only to ratify and confirm the same, in case the Governors of the said Hospital shall please to dispose of the said Child; but also We

the Minister and Church-wardens aforesaid, for ourselves and our Successors, promise and oblige ourselves to discharge the said Hospital of the said Child, at the age of FIFTEEN YEARS , or at any Time before or after the said Age, whensoever the said Hospital shall require the same of us.
Witness our Hands this --- Day of --- One Thousand Eight Hundred ----
[Here is space for signatures of Minister, two churchwardens, three housekeepers (householders) and the petitioner.

I Present *James Glencairn Burns* the Child mentioned in the Certificate on the other Side; and believe the same to be a true Certificate, the Christian-Name and Sire-Name of the said Child being by me inserted at full Length, according to Order of Court the 29th of June 1759. Witness my Hand this *Twenty first* Day of *October 1802.*

James Shaw

Memorandum: Second of this date delivered at the desire of Jas Shaw Esq^r, Alderman, in room of one lost or mislaid.

10 November 1802
Ja^s Glencairn Burns
Examined by [illegible name], Thomas Wheeler

[Handwritten copies of baptism and marriage entries]

Dumfries 30 Sept^r 1802

James Glencairn, Lawful Son of Robert Burn,s Excise officer was baptised on the 13^th^ of August 1794.

Extracted from the Register of baptisms

By

Aglianby Ross Carson, Session Clerk

Robert Burns tenant in Mossgiel and Jean Armour in Mauchline came before the Session upon the fifth day of August 1788 and acknowledged that they were irregularly married some years ago. The Session rebuked both parties for this irregularity and both then solemnly bound to adhere to one another as Husband & Wife all the Days of their Life. Extracted 25^th^ September 1802 from the records of the Kirk Session of Mauchline by And^w^ Boole, Session Clerk

Here there is pasted an obituary dated 30 Aug 1935 The Times

A Descendant of Burns

The death in Adelaide, at the age of 82, of Mrs Annie Vincent Burns Scott, a great-great-granddaughter of Robert Burns, is announced by our Adelaide Correspondent. According to the third volume of the 'Burns Chronicle', issued in 1894, she traced her descent through Lieutenant-Colonel James Glencairn Burns, the fourth son of the poet. His daughter married Dr. B.W. Hutchison, who died in Australia, and Mrs Burns Scott was a daughter of a son born to this couple. She married Mr James Scott, who possessed vineyards near Adelaide.

Know all Men by these Presents that I James Shaw of America Square, one of the Aldermen of the City of London, am held and firmly bound unto the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London, Governors of the Possessions, Revenues and Goods of the Hospitals of Edward, King of England the Sixth, of Christ Bridewell and Saint Thomas the Apostle in the Penal Sum of One Hundred Pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said Mayor and

Commonalty and Citizens, Governors aforesaid, their Successors and Assigns. For which payment well and truly to be made, I the said James Shaw do bind myself, my Heirs, Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents. Sealed with my Seal dated this Eighth day of November in the Forty third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King. Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Two.

[At side] Reg. Fol. 117
Adm. Comm^{ce} 10th
Cloathed 11 Nov 1802

Whereas James Glencairn Burns, son of Robert Burns late of Dumfries, North Britain, Exciseman, deceased, by Jean his lawful wife, is presented for Admission into Christ's Hospital, London by the above-named James Shaw Esquire, one of the Governors of the same, there to be maintained and educated according to the laudable usage of the said Hospital. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if he the said above bounden James Shaw, hi heirs, Executors and Administrators shall and do receive and take the said James Glencairn Burns from and off the charge and expense of the said Hospital when he shall have attained the age of Fifteen years or at any time before or after the said age whensoever the President, treasurer or Governors of the said Hospital for the time being shall require the same of him the said James Shaw, his or either of his Heirs, Executors or Administrators, Then this Obligation shall be void, or else be and remain in full force and virtue Sealed and delivered (being first duly Stamped) in the presence of
Matt^{w} Cotton

[signed] James Shaw

Minutes of Governors, Managers & Boards

Many of these survive, including some from ancient schools. The local county record office or archives will usually know where those in their area are located even if they don't have them in their holdings list. Minutes deal with administrative matters such as:

- Finances
- Building maintenance
- Plans, drawings or photographs of the school buildings.
- Curriculum & Policies
- Teachers & other staff—employment, salaries, holidays.
- Pupils are mentioned only in exceptional circumstances, except where the minutes also act as an admittance, school log or punishment book.

Some records have been microfilmed, and examples of a range of activities in minutes are shown in Charts 7-11.

Chart 7: Overseers of Poor Agreement to pay a Lace Teacher in Bedfordshire 1596

The payment of 2d the weeke to the woman that teacheth the pore children to work bone lace is by the Collectors to be paid fo…thy of the stocke of the collection of the former yeare & the Teacher receiving this 2d is to make good the wayte of that Thred that shall be wasted or lost under her handes in the making of the Lace.

And every child thus worckinge shall weekely be paid from the yard of Mr Bewly his stocke somuche as they shall earne by their workinge:

And such pore as doe not send their children, beinge able, to worke shall receive no releif from the collection;

It is meant that the sayd teacher shall receive so mainie as she conveniently should, may and can teache with out deniall of aire, that shall be appointed unto her by the collectors.

[Three illegible signatures !]

Chart 8: Minutes of Trustees of Greencoat School in Stepney, Middlesex — Film 1,752194

1710

A Register of each person who did subscribe the several sums of Money over against their names respectively to be paid at four equal payments (during pleasure) for setting up a Charity School in the Hamlett of Ratcliffe in the Parish of Stepney in the County of Middlesex.

[Columns of names with amounts donated follows; the first 21 names are condensed here]

£1.0.0 William Ingleton, John Johnson, Sherman Godfrey, Robert Townsend, Daniel Fox, William Orton, Thomas Quilter, Joseph Willmott, James Besouth, Charles Walker, Mary Wakelin, Peter Bere, Isaac Sharp, Francis Proud, John Bodington, John Roberts

15/- Mary Badham

10/- Hannah Bowle, William Thomas, Henry Farden, Peter Perry

At a meeting September 16th 1710:

These persons whose names are underwritten were chosen treasurer and Trustees for the Charity Scholl in the Hamlett of Ratcliffe

Capt John Gorum — Treasurer

Trustees

Mr William Ingleton	Capt James Morgan
Capt Daniel Updike	Mr Daniel Fox
Mr Charles Wlaker	Mr Joseph Willmott

1754 Oct 3rd

William son of William & Mary Spikes of Ratcliff marriner

William son of John & Elizabeth Culverhouse of Ratcliff baker

Thomas son of John & Mary Wilkins alias Wilkinson of Ratcliff sawyer. The above three children were admitted at the same time

→ Continued from the last page

1754 Nov 7th
Mr Loveday was desired to call on the grandfather of Jn° Togwell who appear'd to be absent ever since Sunday last to know the reason of such his absence.
[and after a further investigation]

1754 Dec 5th
Mr Loveday informing the Gentlemen at this meeting that in pursuance of the Minutes of 21st Nov last he applied to the Parents of John Togwell & received no satisfactory answer. And he never having appear'd at the school since, It is hereby resolved:
That the said John Togwell be Discharged from any further Attendance at this School, And that he be allowed no further benefit of this Charity. Mr Loveday is to take care of whatever Cloathing was lately made for him.

1755 Jan 16th
It is this day agreed Mr Thomas Horne, Mr Archibald Chalmers, Mr John Osborne, Mr Thomas Brookes & Mr George Purvis on behalf of the Chairy Children of the Hamlet of Ratcliff in the Parish of Stepney in the County of Mid^x and John Power of St Sepulchre London that the said John Power for & in consideration of the sum of Twenty Pounds sixteen shillings a year, or eight shillings a week, to be paid the said John Power by the Treasurer of the said Charity School. To Commence on the 1st Day of March next, for & during the term of One Year, he the s^d John Power shall Teach & Instruct Three such Days in each Week as the Treasurer & Trustees shall direct, the Thirty five Boys in the School in the Art & Method of Knitting or Braiding Netts.

[The terms continue for another couple of pages, then parental permission is noted as follows:]
We whose names are under Wrote being the Parents or Guardians of the Children belonging to the Charity School of Ratcliff in the Parish of Stepney, do consent that our s^{d} Children shall be Employed in making Netts in the s^{d} School, or any other thing the Treasurer & Trustees for the s^{d} Charity shall think proper to put them to. Witness our Hands this 20th Janry 1755.

[Parent or Guardian]	for	[Child]
Mary Clark	X	Thomas Wilkins
Elizabeth Williams	X	James Williams
Sarah Crole		John Crole
Mary Demell		Ant^{o} Demell
Mary Abery	X	May Abery
Mary Spikes		W^{m} Spikes
Ruth Blackburn	X	Tim: Blackburn
Rachel Trew		John Trew
Mary Fitzgarald	X	Gar^{h} Fitzgarald
Elizabeth Barnes	X	John Barnes
Elizab^{h} Nettleship	X	Thos & Robert Nettleship
Elizab^{h} Currell	X	Thos & Robert Currell
Ann Nichols		Gab^{l} Nicholls
Mary Breadcutt		James Breadcutt
Ann Coleman	X	James Jones
Ann Jolly		Robert Jolly

[A further note has 6 parents objecting, so their children were discharged from the school]
[Due to persistent absence of Susan Coleman and the impertinence of her mother, the girl was discharged]

1756 Feb 27
Ann Everest appearing & praying that her Daughter Mary Platt Everest may be received on this Foundation in the Room of Susan Coleman, Discharged, the same was agreed to & she is to be Enter'd accordingly.

Chart 9: Extracts from Minutes of Wapping, Charity School 1808

1808 January 27
Present the following Gentlemen : Revd ME Coen, Revd Jas Delaney, Revd Jn Serjeant, Mr McCarthy, Mr Ryan, Mr Murphy, Mr Ds McCarthy, Mr Rooney, Mr Findlay.
Mr Sherrott the treasurer sent his accounts which was examined & found very incorrect & not agreeing with Mr Gibson's account.
Mr. Gibson was desired to inform Mr Sherrott thereof & to request him to furnish another.

1808 March 6
Jas Phillips son of Jas Phillips of No 1 Mulbery Gardens aged 9 years recommended by Mr. Dunn and is admitted this night.
Dennis Collings son of the late John Collings aged 9 years lives at No 5 King Street is put on Mr Lyons Fund & is admitted tonight.
Thos Finn son of Elanor Finn aged 8 years lives at No 7 Blue Gate fields recommended by Mr Ryan is admitted tonight.
Mr John Nowlan made a motion which was seconded by Mr McCarthy & carried unanimously as follows, that Mr Kelley the school master do summonds the parents of such children as shall be absent from school 5 days in a month before the committee at their next monthly meeting to give an account of the cause of their being absent.
Revd ME Coen reported he had recevd from Mr Farnsworth his subscription of £1.1s.0d. Mr Mordaunt brought from Mr Andrew Warner 2 years subscriptions £2.2.0

Chart 10: Appointment of Schoolmaster for Salisbury Methodist School 1845 — Film 1526366

Memorandum of an Agreement made the tenth day of April 1845, between the Committee of the Wesleyan Day School in Salisbury of the one part, and James Mumford, Schoolmaster of the same place of the second part, whereby the said Committee jointly and severally agree to appoint the said James Mumford to the office of Master or Teacher of the said School, and to allow him in respect of such offices a salary of seventy Pounds , to be payable quarterly, and in consideration of the said appointment, and salary aforesaid, the said James Mumford agrees to perform under the direction of the said Committee, the duties of the said office in an efficient and satisfactory manner, and to give three months notice in writing to the said Committee, if at any time he shall feel desirous of relinquishing the Appointment, and the duties connected therewith. The Committee also agreeing on there part to give the said James Mumford the like notice if at any time hereafter a large majority of them shall, for good and sufficient reason, feel desirous of being relieved from the engagement hereby entered into.

As witness our Hands the day and year aforesaid.
George Gregory, Treasurer, on behalf of the said Committee
James Mumford, Schoolmaster

Chart 11: Managers' Minutes of Upton County Primary School, Bexley, Kent

1948 26 April

The afternoon was a holiday in honour of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding.

1948 31 May

Enrolment stands at 411, with 260 fed mid-day meal in 3 classrooms and the hall every day.
Kent Education Committee has advised that the maximum aggregate school holidays allowed by the Ministry of Education is 12 weeks, together with no more than 10 days in the educational year to be granted by the Managers as mid-term or other occasional holidays. Thus, for the 1948-1949 school year the dates were set as:
Autumn term – 6.9.48 – 17.12.48 = 75 days
Less 5-day autumn holiday 25.10.48 – 29.10.48 = 70 days total
Spring term – 3.1.49 – 13.4.49 = 73 days total
Summer term – 2.5.49 – 26.7.49 = 62 days
Less 5-day Whitsun holiday 6.6.49 – 10.6.49 = 57 days total
Giving total school year of 200 days.

1948 10 June

Domestic Staff

Mrs L. Archer SMA (? School Meals Assistant) [appointed] 12.4.48 – 22.5.48 during absence of Mrs Goddard

Accident to Scholar

To report that Roger Irwin aged 9 sustained a crushed finger when interfering with a radiator in the new classroom before school began on 3rd June 1948. First Aid was administered and the boy referred to the Cottage Hospital. It is feared, however, that he may lose a part or all of his little finger.

→ Continued on the next page

Use of School out of School Hours
To receive the report of the Head Mistress that the Hawthorn Club have used the school premises carefully. The use of the physical training equipment has been requested but this has not been allowed in the absence of a qualified instructor.

Tarpaved Area
To consider, if received, the Borough Engineer & Surveyor's estimate for the tarpaving of the area between the Boys' and Girls' playgrounds.

1948 **5 October**

Caretaker
The Caretaker was interviewed and questioned by members of the Managers. In reply to the questions the Caretaker stated that the hours he was actually working were 7 – 9am, 11 – 12.30, and 3 – 6pm on weekdays. It was pointed out to him that this in fact amounted to 6½ hours per day instead of the 8½ which were his agreed hours and which had been brought to his notice in a letter of 28th June. In reply to further questions he also stated that during holidays he normally worked mornings only. Mr Welling pointed out that during the winter he also had to attend at weekends to carry out the stoking. After Mr. Welling had left the meeting and after further discussion it was resolved that Mr Welling's dismissal be recommended to the Bexley Committee but that action be deferred for one month. The Chairman was authorised to decide at the end of this time whether the recommendation for dismissal should then go forward or whether it should be deferred until the next meeting of the Managers.

Furniture & Equipment
The Correspondent reported that the provision of Parallel Ropes had also been requested.

1954 **24 June**

Teaching Staff – Permanent

To approve the following appointments:

Mrs E. Harkness 1.9.54 Additional appointment approved

Mr S.J. York 1.9.54 Vice Mr Murphy

Teaching Staff – Temporary

To approve the following appointments:

Miss G. Clarke from 3.5.54 Vice Mr Murphy

Miss E. Hildyard from 3.5.54 Additional class Summer term

Miss G. Kendon from 3.5.54 Continuation of employment

Leave of Absence

To approve leave of absence granted as follows:

Mr G. Denham 9.2 & 12.2.54 Father's death & funeral. Full salary recommended

Miss E. Kellaway 8 – 12.2.54 Illness & death of mother Full salary recommended

Use of School out of Hours

To approve the following users:

Women's Junior Air Corps Mondays Training Sessions 1.3 – 12.4.54; 3.5 – 31.5.54; 14.6 – 19.7.54

Presiding Officer 13..5.54 Polling Station

Occasional Closure

To report that the school was closed on the 2nd March 1954, on the occasion of the Entrance Examination Part II. [Only those taking the 11+ exam went to school that day! I was the previous year's bunch, the 1st part being taken before Xmas and the 2nd in March]

Admission & Discharge Records

These records for Board Schools date from the 1870s, with some as early as 1862, and name the child, his date of birth and date of admission, the father's (and sometimes mother's) name, address, name of previous school attended, and date of leaving. Some give further information about why they left and where they went, perhaps naming another town or school, apprenticeship or workplace. These records provide important primary information and can be especially useful where several generations have attended the same local school. For example, where there are several families bearing the same surname and each having a John, William, Mary and Sarah, school records can help sort out which ones survived infancy.

Some finding aids to admission and discharge records have been written, for example Webb's index of school records of (Greater) London. The county record office or local archives will usually know where those in their area are located if they don't have them in their holdings list. A few enterprising people have started to put admission registers onto CD, for example for Derby British School 1871-1894 (Probert).

An example of an Admission & Discharge Register from Warlingham Board School, Surrey on film 1,472,619 is given in Charts 12-13. This register starts in April 1893 and has an index of pupils, by first letter only, at the front which gives their admission number, entered in chronological order. There is a two-page spread of columns which is summarized here:

Chart 12: Admission & Discharge Register
Warlingham Board School, Surrey

Column	Notes
Admission number	
Date of admission or re-admission	
Date of birth	
Surname	
Christian name of child	First name and initial
Surname of parents	Only fathers' first names & initial given
Address	
Last school	Various: *none, this, private, none for 4 months, name of specific school.*
Particulars of last examination	Only about half filled in with *nil, i, iii, v* etc.
Standard	Columns from I to VII, with year entered when in this standard
Specific subjects	Two columns, each divided into Stage 1, 2 and 3. None filled in at Warlingham
Withdrawal date	Not always given
Cause of withdrawal	Typical examples: *Gone to Caterham, Exempt by age* (these were 12-year-olds, most with only standards III or IV to their credit, several having spent more than one year in 1 or more standards), *Left illegally, Long illness, Labour certificate, To wait till older, Died 19 Dec 1893, To help at home, Home to London, To help mother, Gone to work, Monitor became teacher* (no withdrawal date), *Left district, Transferred to infants, Gained scholarship, Gone to convalescent home*

From the index I found four Jupp children, all residing in Whyteleafe and having last attended Whyteleafe School, but from two families (Chart 13).

Chart 13: Jupp Children in Admission & Discharge Register, Warlingham Board School

Child & father	Dates of birth & admission	#	Standard attended Date of withdrawal Cause of withdrawal
Arthur s/o Arthur	2 Jun 1882 11 Sep 1893	962	(standard not given) (date not given) Exempt by age
George s/o Arthur	21 Jun 1884 7 May 1894	995	II in '95, III in '96 26 Mar 1897 To go to work
Charles s/o Arthur	6 Jun 1886 22 Apr 1995	1076	III in '96, IV in '97 & '98, V in '99 14 Apr 1899 (cause unreadable)
Henry s/o George	28 May 1889 5 Apr 1898	1267	II in '99, III in '00 (no date given) Whyteleafe School

Records of Reform Schools are also available, those for 1788-1890 of the *Royal Philanthropic Society* are on four films starting at 1470975. This was organized in 1788 *for the admission of the offspring of convicts and the reformation of criminal poor children*. The children were housed, clothed, fed, schooled and apprenticed so that they could become useful members of society. Most were from London and Cheshire, many absconded, but the records of those that stayed are extremely detailed, some with photographs.

Excerpts from early girls' records are in Chart 14. Youths out of training were encouraged to emigrate, with dates, ships' names and letters home being included in the records, and an example is given in Chart 15.

Chart 14: Excerpts from Royal Philanthropic Society Records of Girls

⌘ Charlotte NORMAN—complete report

1790	This girl and her sister are natural children deserted by their parents and real objects for this institution. Age 12 [born 1777-78]
1792 22 Sep	Apprenticed to the Matron.
1794 26 May	Was by the Orders of the Committee placed on liking with Mrs Kupor(?) who lives in the Kent road upon liking.
1794 20 Jun	Was removed back to the Reform, the Matron having some intelligence respecting this girl's mistress which made it necessary to take her from this situation.
1794 29 Nov	Placed by the Committee's orders with Mrs Lindsay, but returned on the Monday, Mrs Kuper(?) her former Mistress having reported to Mrs Lindsay some circumstance which occasioned Mrs Lindsay to part with her.
1794 10 Dec	Was by the recommendation of Mr Hooper placed as Servant with Mrs Frith, No 35 Norton Faldgate at Wages of four guineas per annum.
1795 22 Jun	Mrs Firth having no further occasion for her services, she was removed to Mrs Rigby a widow Lady, who resides in Grafton Street, Clerkenwell.

1795 13 Aug	Returned to the Reform. On account of her so suddenly leaving her situation, the Superintendent waited on her Mistress to inquire the cause – was made acquainted that she had given her Mistress warning and behaved very insolent & improperly. On my return placed her in solitary confinement, and reported her Conduct to the General Committee who were pleased to order her still remaining in this situation by a Minute thereon.
1795 5 Sep	Was by order released from confinement on promise of amendment.
1795 10 Sep	Sent on trial to Mrs Baker, Salisbury St., Strand.
1795 7 Oct	Mrs Baker having no further occasion for her; she returned.
1795 16 Nov	Mrs Cade who keeps a Boarding School for young Ladies at Blackheath was desirous of taking her on trial as an apprentice – which, meeting with the Committee's approbation – she was sent on trial and having remained there to Dec 5th she was apprenticed with the consent of all parties.
1799 mid-Jun	1800 About the middle of June last [Charlotte] called on Mr Hooper to enquire after her sister, who is now in the Reform and also to return Thanks to the Members of the Philanthropic Society for their Care and attention to her when in the Reform, and at the same time informed Mr Hooper that after living in two or three places of Servitude, she accompanied one of her Mistresses to Deal, where she was married to a respectable Man, by trade a Taylor two years back [1797]. And from her very decent appearance she promises to be a Useful Member of the Community as well as to do credit to those who protected her in her early years.

⌘ Sarah NORMAN—complete record

1790	Sister to the foregoing. Age 7 [born 1782-3]
1792 22 Sep	Apprenticed to the Matron.
1806 3 Oct	Placed out in service with Mrs Durand, No 3 James Place, Hackney road at the usual Wages of Five Guineas.
1807 7 Feb	Not approving of her, she was removed and was placed Servant with Mrs Leeson, Vauxhall Walk.

⌘ Mary KING—extracts

Admitted 1789 aged 10. "The father is dead and the mother left with four helpless children. Her father was executed for a Robbery recommended by Revd Dr. Grindley". [Doesn't sound quite right, does it!].
She was placed out in 1797 and after 2 years of good conduct received a reward of two guineas!

⌘ Mary MITCHELL—extracts

Admitted 1789 aged 8. "Her mother a drunken idle woman her father incapable of bringing her up through the mother's imprudent conduct."

Placed out in 1800 but returned as unsuitable in 1801. Placed out again in 1803, received a gratuity of one guinea after one year's good conduct there. In 1819 was rewarded with two guineas for having served at the same place for nearly 16 years.

Chart 15: Royal Philanthropic Society Admission Register for a Boy 1885

John (Archibald) WEDDELL

This is a summary of many detailed columns

Age	15
Born	14 Feb 1871 [i.e. in 15th year]
Admitted	19 Aug 1885 into Garston's House
On what terms	29 & 30 Vict. C117 Middlesex
Description	Height 5'1", Complexion sallow, Hair brown, Eyes grey, Nose rather long; Figure slight with bad scar on back of left hand from burns, blue marks on left forearm, this features, long neck, low shoulders, nose etc. little twisted to right.
Education state	Reads Standard IV, writes a little, cyphers nil
Baptized	Parish Church, Tottenham May 1871
Schools attended	Nil
Employment	Printer, saw mill, errand boy at Surrey Theatre
Offence	Stealing a watch & jewellery from his aunt
Where convicted	Edmonton Petty Session
When convicted	6 Aug 1885
Sentence	14 days imprisonment, 3 yrs detention
Where imprisoned	Holloway
Previous convictions & sentences	Nil, but remanded a week (6 months ago) for stealing beer cans & discharged with Caution. Was turned out by his father more than a year ago & has been living in common lodging houses ever since. Has had no regular work for last 6 months. He called on his aunt in Tottenham & while there stole the watch, ring & brooch value 66/-. Sold the watch in London (Middlesex St.) for 5/- & gave the other things to his mates.
Father	John WADDELL blacksmith of 22 Munyon Road, New Kent Road SE
Mother	Dead (1885)

Relations:	
Brothers	Henry (13) works at saw mills, Twickenham Wm (10) at home
Uncle	Robert WEDDELL, Waverley Cottage, Chestnut Road, Tottenham
Grandmother	Adams, 4 Waterloo Place, Reform Row, Tottenham
Friend	Miss Johnson, 312 Munton Road, SE
	Aunt Hackwell. 2 Waterloo Place, Tottenham
Conduct & Remarks	**1885** Sep 3 - Caned for disorder in field Dec 16 - 2 meals bread & water for leaving work
	1886 Jun 26 - Cells 1 day for purchasing tobacco Jul 11 - Cells 3 days for rambling
	1887 May 1 - 2 M for lying & disobedience Jul 17 - Confirmed in School Chapel
	1888 Apr 19 - Emigrated to Canada

Letter in file

"Letter Carrier's Office Stoke Newington N 18.4.1888

Sir, My Mother Mrs Adams of 4 Waterloo Place, Tottenham yesterday received from her grandson John Weddell at present at your school a letter informing her that he left for Canada on Thursday. My mother would not be able to see the lad away and I as his uncle would much like to bid him goodbye at the Railway Station if my duties would admit of my being away at the hour he leaves. There was, however, no time stated in his letter, therefore I beg respectfully to ask if you would let me have the particulars as to the station and time of departure.

I trust that the good teaching and kindly influence which has been shewn him may be the means of his becoming a credit to himself and his relatives, and I would beg to offer my sincere thanks for the interest taken in his behalf.

I enclose an envelope for particulars if you would kindly send them

Yours respectfully,

W. Adams"

Achievement Certificates & Prizes

Some schools kept lists of examination results, medal records, honours books or large wall-mounted carved honours boards. Little recognition by means of personal mementoes was made of student's academic, musical or athletic achievements before the 20th century and these are also more likely to be found in family collections, such as those in Charts 16-18. To encourage regular attendance many schools offered attendance medals and certificates which can be found at home, but may also be recorded in a school register. It is worth perusing numismatic catalogues for any kinds of medals which have passed out of the family.

Chart 16: Religious Instruction Certificate

Bert Gardner Diocese of Rochester

The pupil obtained this when aged 10-12 at Crayford, Kent National School (Church of England)

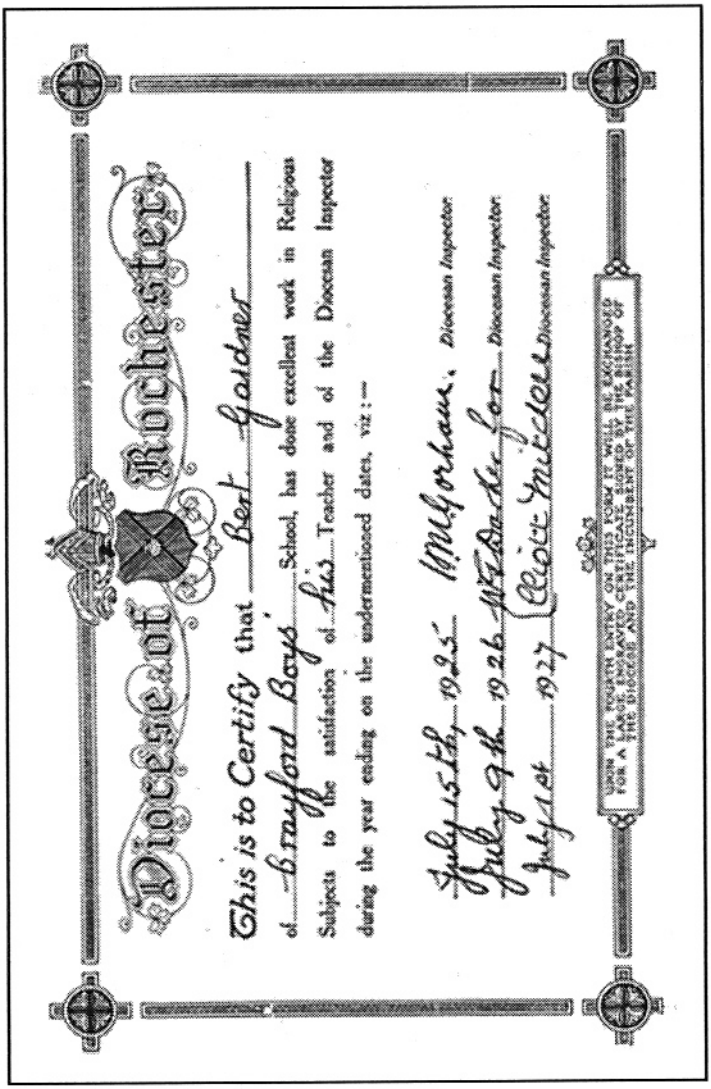
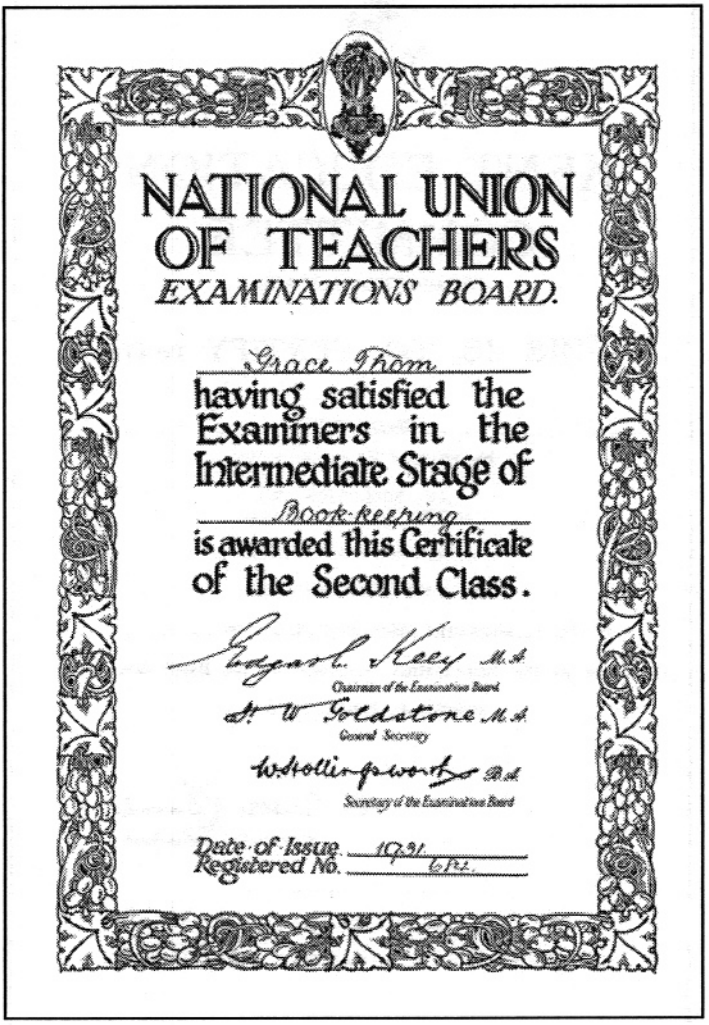

Diocese of Rochester
This is to Certify that Bert Gardner
of Crayford Boys' School, has done excellent work in Religious
Subjects to the satisfaction of his Teacher and of the Diocesan Inspector
during the year ending on the undermentioned dates, viz:—
July 15th 1925 W.M. Yorkham Diocesan Inspector
July 9th 1926 M.E. Barker Lee Diocesan Inspector
July 1st 1927 Alice Mitchell Diocesan Inspector
UPON THIS FOURTH ENTRY ON THIS FORM IT WILL BE ENDORSED
WITH A CERTIFICATE OF CONFIRMATION BY THE BISHOP OF
THE DIOCESE AND THE INCUMBENT OF THE PARISH

Chart 17: Book-Keeping Certificate from National Union of Teachers - ***Grace Thom N.U.T.***

The 16-year-old pupil attended the Shakespeare Day Continuation Institute in West Ham, East London



NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

EXAMINATIONS BOARD.

Grace Thom

having satisfied the Examiners in the Intermediate Stage of

Book-keeping

is awarded this Certificate of the Second Class.

Reginald Kelly M.A.
Chairman of the Examinations Board.

H. W. Goldstone M.A.
General Secretary.

W. Hollingsworth B.A.
Secretary of the Examinations Board.

Date of Issue 1921
Registered No. 6712.

Chart 18: Law, Economics & Secretarial Practice Certificate -***Grace Thom Kent - Education Committee***

The 20-year-old pupil attended Dartford Technical College, administered by the County Education Committee

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

EXAMINATIONS BOARD

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

GRACE THOM

has attended for instruction in

LAW, ECONOMICS AND SECRETARIAL PRACTICE

Advanced Second Year

during the Session 1934-35

at the Dartford Technical College

and at the Examination conducted by the Board was awarded a Second Class.

E. Salter Davis

Chairman, Examinations Board.

Date 22 JAN 1936 Regd. No. 39655

School Log Books

Thousands of these survive from as far back as the early 19th century for the British (nonconformist) and National (Church of England) Schools. The regulations for grant-aided schools from 1862 state that a log book should be kept in which the principal teacher should make a brief daily entry on the progress and other relevant facts which might require to be referred to or may deserve to be recorded.

In 1871 this requirement changed to a minimum weekly entry. School log books can offer fascinating details of day-to-day school life, although sometimes they frustratingly offer only *all going well* or *no remarks*.

Log Books contain:

- Causes of absence, showing what life was like for these children. Maybe they were required to help in the fields—haymaking, harvesting, blackberrying, digging potatoes or following the hunt—or at home with younger children. Even children in the city would go to help their parents with harvesting, a well-known example being the hop-pickers from East London. Another cause was inadequate clothing—perhaps they had no boots to wear to school; my mother related tales of a family of four children in West Ham who only had two pairs of boots so they took it in turns to go to school.
- Visits by medical personnel such as the *nit nurse* who checked for head-lice.

- Appointment of new staff, whether teachers, clerical, canteen or janitorial, and goodbye events for leavers or retirees.
- Absences of staff for family emergencies, examinations or interviews.
- Problems with facilities.
- Staff problems.
- Discipline problems, sometimes with parents as well as children.
- Holidays and celebrations for national events.
- Local events and customs.
- Prizes given for best examination results or highest number of attendances.
- Epidemics, sometimes causing school closure.
- Closure of school due to severe weather.
- Visits of clergy, school inspectors and local dignitaries.
- Names of monitors and pupil-teachers appear frequently.
- Subjects of school lessons such as songs learned, poetry recited or the *object lessons* delivered.
- Text books used.
- Deaths of children.
- Difficulties in collecting the *school pence* (fees) before they were abolished in 1891.

Entries from an actual school log book taken from film 1472619 are shown in Chart 19.

Chart 19: Extracts from Log Book of Church Street School, Woking, Surrey 1877-1895

1877

Jun 14 Punished Georgina Sexton for stealing geraniums & bringing them to school.

Jun 22 Mrs Saunders complained that John Legrier had stolen her gooseberries. When accused he denied it; but afterwards confessed that he climbed over the garden rails & took them.

Jun 26 Mistress unable to attend school through severe cold. Mr & Miss Wainwright took the school.

Jun 29 Mistress took the school but did not keep to the time table in the afternoon as she was unable to take singing [after effects of the severe cold!]

Jul 5 Revd Canon Titcomb visited the school.

Copy of HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) Report on Church Street School

This school has been open only since the 1st of January. The children are backward for their age. The school is at present in very moderate condition in respect of instruction; the arithmetic in particular being very imperfect.

Miss Howick's certificate is deferred for the present.

Average attendance	33
Number presented	20
Passed in reading	15
Passed in writing	12
Passed in arithmetic	5

1879

Feb 12 Flora Snook away all day to mind the baby. School routine the same as usual.

Feb 13 Taught the children the words of a new song last half-hour this morning.

Feb 14	The Attendance Officer visited this afternoon, and informed me that the Attendance of the children at this school was better on an average than any under the Board. Average attendance for week 59.9.
Feb 21	Snow very deep this morning therefore only 40 children present. attendance a little better this afternoon 50 children present.
Feb 25	Rev Maber came this afternoon when the children were writing in Copy Books.
Mar 3	Kate Russell returned to school this morning. Admitted Rosina, Ada, Amy and Lucy Lawrence.
Mar 4	Samuel Sherlock returned to school this morning, not having been to school since before Christmas, being in the hospital with a bad foot.
Mar 20	Gertrude and Rose Ham are away from school in consequence of their younger sister and mother having whooping cough.
Oct 27	Owing to the incessant rain and high floods many children are away from school.
Oct 29	Fanny, Ellen and James Till have left school as parents are leaving the neighbourhood.
Nov 2	Rev F.J. Oliphant and Rev Tucker visited this morning and gave away the prizes for the Religious Inspection.
1885	
Jul 1	As several children were going to a treat at Send, the registers were closed at 9.25 to allow them to leave school at 11.30.
Jul 3	A half holiday was given in the afternoon.
Jul 8	Mrs Pullen called this morning to say that Ada's health is suffering from the Standard work being too hard & to ask that she should be allowed to do less.
Jul 14	The Foresters Club being today a holiday was given in the afternoon.
Aug 16	Sophie Stevens was severely punished by the mistress for impertinence and disobedience.
Jul 31	The harvest Holiday commences today.

Aug 31	The school re-opened after the holiday with an attendance of 54. Several of the older children are absent gleaning.
Sep 21	Eight children are absent from school sick. Two have scarletina, the others complain of sickness and sore throats.

Object Lessons 1894-1895

Natural History	Cow, Frog, Camel, Mole, Wolf, Snake, Earthworm, Hedgehog, Fishes, Reindeer
Animal Physiology	Head, Ear, Limbs
Plants	Cotton, Rice
Natural Phenomena	Sea, Mountains & Hills, Day & Night
Occupations	Dairyman, Cleaning a room
Minerals	Silver, Iron
Miscellaneous	Corn, Sponge, A plank, Ink, Soap, Lamp, Solids & Liquids

Repetition 1894-1895

Standard	Title	Lines
VI V IV	The hole in the dyke Queen of the May	----
III	The newsboy's debt "Only me"	54 12 Total 66
II	Sunshine and shower	60
I	Grandpapa's spectacles	24
Signed by H. Wadburgh H.M. Inspector. Nov 12/94		

Copy of HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) Report on Church Street School 24 Jan 1895

Mixed School The work as a whole is fairly good and is sound and even, though the attainments compared with the ages are not high. Boys' History good. Girls' Needlework fairly good, but not up to good. Tone and discipline are good on the whole.

Infants' Class The discipline is satisfactory and the Infants are nicely taught.

Elizth Emily Hodges, Certificated Mistress
Elsie Frances Gwyther, Assistant Mistress

Signed Gilbert H. White, Clerk to the Board

Grant earned for the year ending Oct 21 1894

Mixed Department	£35 5 0
Infants' Class	24 15 0
	60 0 0

Fixed grant	12/6d	Infants	9/-
Singing	1/-	Singing	1/-
Needlework	1/-	Variable	4/-
History	2/-	Needlework & Drawing	1/-
Discipline	1/-		
Drawing	1/-		

Fee Grant for whole year £38 0 0

One feels for teachers and children who suffered through such daily events as occurred at Canterbury Road Infants School, Deptford, London:

- "Aug 25. 88 new scholars admitted. Most of the morning taken up putting them into their new classes. Only six children had ever been to school before."

- "Aug 28. This is the first day that the children have been able to pay much attention to their work on account of the crying of the new children."

Teynham School, Kent was situated in a poor, low-lying area by the River Swale and the log is replete with absences due to ague, marsh fever, and many infectious diseases. Several children suffered from near-starvation, and in winter the children cried in the schoolroom because of the cold, but there were happier times, and pictures of plays and school treats are given as well by Sattin.

Log books may have been deposited in county record offices but many remain with the school, parish or local education authority and have to be hunted down. The local county record office or archives will usually know where those in their area are located if they don't have them in their holdings list. Look-ups may be available from fellow-members of the local FHS, so keep in touch with them.

Some finding aids to log books have been written for example Webb's index of school records of (Greater) London, and Horn has some worthwhile comments. There is a 30 to 50-year closure period from the date of the last entry.

School Photographs

Photographs of school classes, teams, events or a panorama of the whole school can be found from the last quarter of the 19th century for every kind of school, college or university. They may be in family collections, or with a local archives; the school itself probably retains some and may have name identification lists. The individual photograph is a more recent innovation in the last 50 years.

Testimonials & Reports

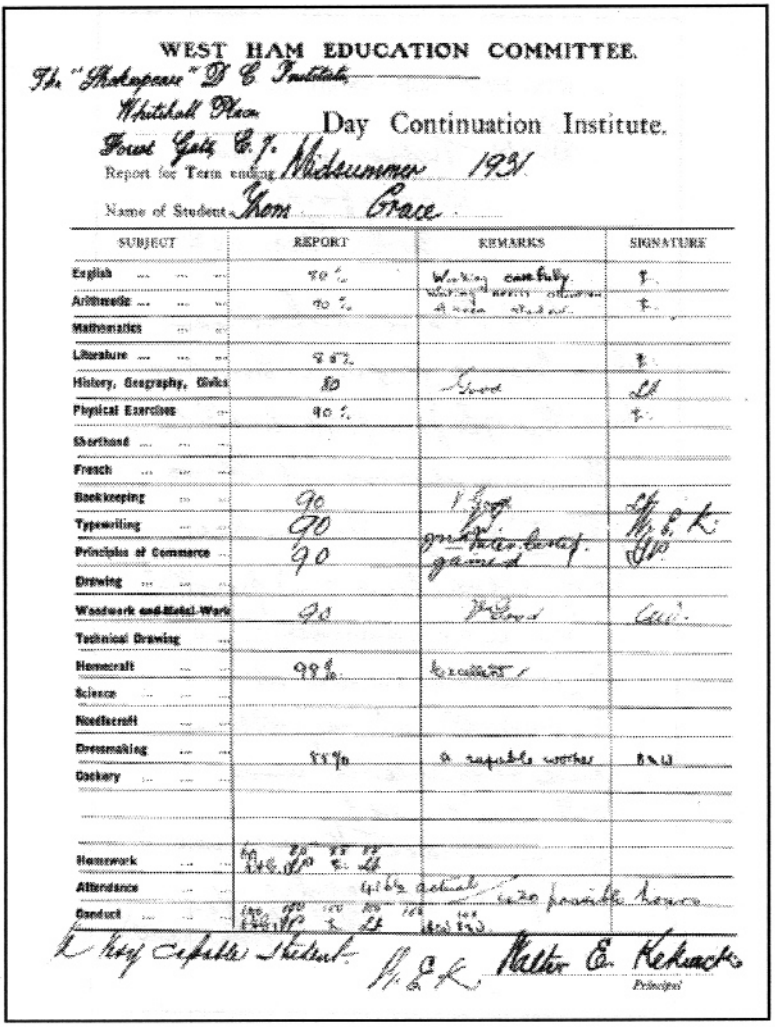
Annual or term *school reports* are most likely to be found amongst family papers of-course, as they were sent home with the student. An example is in Chart 20. *Testimonials* for individual students were given as they left school, usually to go to work, but also to get further education. They also will be found amongst family papers and an example is in Chart 21. Reports of progress for the whole school can be found from early times, an early one is transcribed as Chart 22.

Inspector' Reports

Some schools commenced very poorly, for example Brook School, Kent opened in 1877 and the inspectors wrote these comments:

- 1878—Older girls do not attend regularly as they are employed in hop tying and hop clearing.
- 1879—The floor of the schoolroom should be washed oftener than once a year.
- 1880—Spelling and arithmetic being very weak, both classes' grants have been forfeited.
- 1883—The school has done badly in almost all respects. One tenth grant deducted.

Chart 20: Term Report from Day Continuation Institute - West Ham Education Committee, Grace Thom Pupil was 16 at this time. This was one of the first schools to offer woodwork for girls!



WEST HAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The "Shakespeare" D. C. Institute,
Whitehall Place,
Forest Gate, E.7.

Day Continuation Institute.

Report for Term ending Midsummer 1931

Name of Student Thom Grace

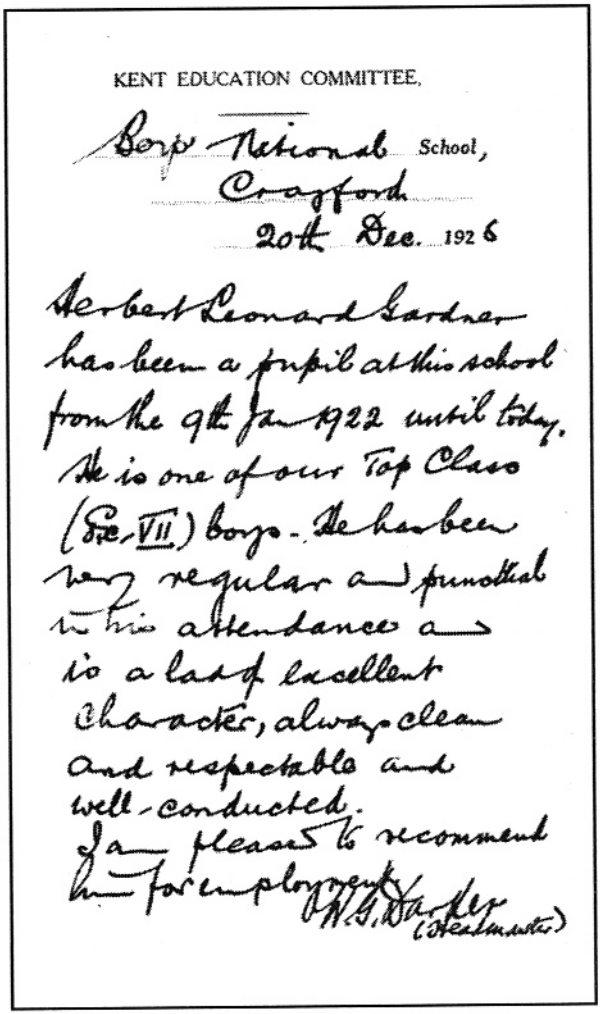
SUBJECT	REPORT	REMARKS	SIGNATURE
English	90 %	Working carefully	
Arithmetic	90 %		
Mathematics			
Literature	95%		
History, Geography, Civics	80	Good	
Physical Exercises	90 %		
Shorthand			
French			
Bookkeeping	90	V. Good	
Typewriting	90		
Principles of Commerce	90		
Drawing			
Woodwork and Metal-Work	90	V. Good	
Technical Drawing			
Homecraft	99%	Excellent	
Science			
Needlecraft			
Dressmaking	95%	A capable worker	
Cookery			
Homework	90 90 95 95		
Attendance	416½ actual 420 possible		
Conduct	100 100 100 100 100		

A very Capable Student. H. E. K. Walter E. Kehoe
Principal

Chart 21: Testimonial from a National School

Boys National School, Crayford-Herbert Leonard Gardner

Pupil was aged 12 in 1926 and seeking employment whilst waiting for an apprenticeship vacancy to arise in his father's trade.



KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Boys National School,
Crayford
20th Dec. 1926

Herbert Leonard Gardner has been a pupil at this school from the 9th Jan 1922 until today. He is one of our Top Class (Std. VII) boys. He has been very regular and punctual in his attendance and is a lad of excellent character, always clean and respectable and well-conducted. I am pleased to recommend him for employment.

W. G. Barkley (Headmaster)

Chart 22: Report on Village Scholars at Meppershall, Bedfordshire

An Account of the Scholars & Their Learning Taken December 22, 1698

Taught by Dame Gurny:

Elizabeth Deer can read well & hath knit 3 pairs of stockings.
Emma Tomson can read pretty well, & hath knit 2 pair of stockings, one for herself & another for her father.
Ann Blane reads pretty well, has knit a pair of stockings & made some linnen.
Mary Tailor begins to read in her Testament, & learns to knit & to sew.

Taught by Dame Soal

Thomas Roff reads pretty well in his Testament.
Ann Leonard begins to read in her Testament, & spins a pound of hemp tare in a week.
Thomas Cherry knows his letters & begins to spell.
Hannah Tomson knows her letters & spells; And spins two pounds of tare in a week.
Ann Endersby is learning her letters, & can spin two pound of hemp tare in a week; she makes a good thred.

School Histories

If you are lucky someone will have written a history of your ancestors' local school. Nyazai has written about her experiences compiling the history of Busbridge School, Godalming, Surrey. This is full of advice for those who wish to do the same, and contains several quotations from log books etc. such as:

- 1882 Apr 20—Sent Bertha Johnson home with her little brother. He had a stone up his nose.
- 1885 May 15—Herbert Boxall, Percy May, Williae Boxall and George Newman are absent primrose gathering [and thus contributing to the family income].
- 1885 Jul 2—Parents of Elizabeth Hardy were fined 2/6d last Saturday for not sending Elizabeth to school regularly.
- 1897 Jan 24—School closed this last fortnight on account of the prevalence of diphtheria to which the following children have succumbed viz. George Williams, William Harris, Barbara Hawkes.
- 1911 Jul 11—Sydney Williams has been awarded a Nautical Scholarship by the Education Authority, the first Busbridge boy to gain such a distinction.

Other School Records

A large variety of other documents may turn up:

- *Plans, inventories of equipment, accounts* and *deeds*.

- *Records of Staff.* Teachers were required to have a bishop's certificate from 1603, and records of these containing the teacher's signatures can be found in *Bishops' Subscription Books*, in county archives. There are many later records as well including applications from prospective staff members. Staff at an Industrial School are the subject of an article by Watson. Further information about teachers and professional training can be found in the author's *Researching English Occupations: Professions & Trades*.

- *Teachers' Association Minutes*

- *School prospectuses* give names of staff, details of facilities and curriculum taught.

- Examples of *school exercises, timetables, reading primers*, the latter typically aimed at moral education as well as literacy.

- *Correspondence Files* have sometimes survived and are a really mixed bag, including notes from parents regarding reasons for a child's absence from school.

- *Examination schedules*

- *Medical logs* especially after the setting up of the school medical service in 1907. Medical logs and punishment books are subject to closure regulations of up to 100 years.

- Maintenance of a *punishment book* was compulsory from at least the early 20th century until the abolition of corporal punishment in 1988. Reasons for, and exact type of punishments meted out to named pupils had to be recorded.

- *Truancy (Attendancy) Officers' Records*. Separate absenteeism books may have been kept in the school, and truancy officers would visit parents whose child was AWOL. Parents could also be brought before the *Petty Sessions* for failing to send their children to school.

This brings to an end the section on Educational Records. The reader is encouraged to dig into the references supplied and investigate what is increasingly available online, then pursue leads into the original documents.

HEALTH

History

Prior to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1530s monks and nuns had provided some care for the sick and those with then-incurable diseases such as leprosy. Most people's health care came from folk remedies administered at home or by 'wise women', and most households had a herb garden wherein many of the ingredients were grown; and others were collected in the fields and woods. Ashley provides a useful history of old remedies. Along with the genuine healers there were large numbers of quack doctors, often touting their own concoctions as magic cure-alls. Advertisements for these are common in newspapers until the late 19th century.

The elite *London College of Physicians* was founded in 1518, whilst the 'inferior' *Surgeons'* and *Barbers' Companies*, formed in the late 15th century, merged about 1540. There were also *apothecaries* who dispensed medicines. You will find further information about records of these and other medical practitioners in the companion volume *Researching English Occupations: Professions & Trades*. The present volume will concentrate on health issues and records of patients.

Until well into the 18th century there was frequent use of blood-letting, purges and emetics but a few scientific advances were being made particularly inoculation, and in 1798 vaccination, for smallpox.

It was not until the mid-19th century that anaesthetics and antiseptic procedures allowed major internal operations to be performed. Pasteur's work on the microbial etiology of disease came in the late 1860s and Koch's in 1881-2, but antibiotics were not discovered until 1928. A succinct history of medical practice was given by Dr. Porter of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine.

Anatomists & Resurrectionists

A necessary part of medical education was anatomical dissection, although it was repugnant to many. Henry VII allowed the Barber-Surgeons' Company to have the bodies of four executed felons annually for dissection. To satisfy greater demand there was a good trade in 'fresh bodies' supplied by *body snatchers* or *resurrectionists*. Occasional references to missing bodies or apprehension of the perpetrators can be found in parish registers, parish chest materials and newspapers. The demand for corpses for dissection was greatest in Edinburgh's renowned university medical school, and it was here in 1827-28 that the infamous Burke & Hare developed the resurrectionist's trade into murder. Their story is told at:
www.bbc.co.uk/crime/caseclosed/burkeandhare.shtml

In 1831 a similar case occurred in London and forced parliament to change the law. In 1832 it became legal for anyone in legal possession of a body to hand it over for dissection, provided the person had not expressly stated before he died that he did not wish to be anatomised.

Workhouses were also allowed to assign unclaimed bodies to medical schools. The supply now kept up with the demand and grave-robbing became unnecessary.

Wood (2002) notes that 750 bodies were needed annually for the London hospitals, and refers to Richardson's book on the subject. Details on modern regulations regarding the supply of bodies and some conjectures on past usage by a chief anatomy technician were related by Wood (2003). The *anatomy database* at http://ndad.ulcc.ac.uk provides details of bodies donated to medical science since 1992. The older companion *anatomy registers* at TNA commenced in 1832, those up to 1971 are in class MH/74 (Sandford).

Post-Mortems & Inquests

There was less popular aversion to autopsies or post-mortems to decide the cause of death. Coroners, formerly *crowners* as they were on crown business, have had the duty to investigate the circumstances of sudden, unnatural or suspicious deaths since 1194, and deaths in prison and during hospital operations were added to this list later. Before 1926 all inquests were held before a jury and one sees reference to *twelve men sat on the body of the deceased.* Thomas Hood's *Faithless Nelly Gray* (quoted more fully in the author's *Researching English Parish Registers*) includes the lines:

A dozen men sat on his corpse,
To find out why he died -

Some examples of coroner's orders can be found in Chart 23.

Chart 23: Examples of Coroner's Orders

2 Jun 1835 Abinger, Surrey
Coroner's Certificate of Death

To the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish of Abinger in the County of Surrey and to all others whom these may concern.
Whereas I, with my Inquest, the Day and Year hereunder-written, have taken a View of the Body of Henry Horsey whose death the jurors find was from a fit of Apoplexy and who now lies dead in the parish of Shere and have proceeded therein according to Law.
These, are therefore, to certify, that you may lawfully permit the Body of the said Henry Horsey to be Buried; and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.
Given under my Hand and Seal this 2nd June 1835.
Henry Woods, coroner

24 Sep 1880 St. Mary, Battersea, Surrey
Remains supposed to be human found at Nine Elms ordered to be buried by G.H. Hull, coroner for Surrey

30 Nov 1903 St. Nicholas, Guildford, Surrey

Births & Deaths Registration Act 1874

Coroner's Order for Burial

To be given by the Coroner to the Relative of the Deceased or other person who causes the Body to be buried, or to the Undertaker or other person having charge of the Funeral.

I, the undersigned, Coroner for the County of Surrey Do hereby authorize the Burial of the Body of Jane Blacklidge aged about 49 years which has been viewed by the Inquest Jury.
Witness my hand this 30th November 1903.
Geo: Fred Roirmien [?] Coroner

This paper survives in the burial book for St. Nicholas, Guildford and the burial entry reads:
Jane Blacklidge of 5 Millmead, buried December 3, aged 49 years.

The result of the post mortem and/or the verdict from the inquest, was included in the cause of death column on the death certificate. This would be followed by the phrase *Inquest/Post mortem (or PM) held* and sometimes its date(s) as well. If the wording is *Inquest adjourned* then it means that someone has been charged with the death, and it may or may not give the name of the accused, or may say by person or persons unknown. Examples of such certificates are shown in the author's *Researching English & Welsh Civil Registration Records*.

Any mention of a post-mortem, inquest or coroner's certificate should be followed up in:

- *Newspapers*. Depending on the nature of the demise there could be considerable coverage in the local and/or national newspapers.

- *Coroners' records.* Surviving records of coroners' hearings usually include the individual inquest or inquisition which gives the verdict, name, date, time, cause of death and the signatures of the jurors. Unfortunately in most cases the fascinating supporting evidence has been discarded over the years.

The National Archives contains much material before the mid-18th century, but after that only if the inquest resulted in a murder or manslaughter trial. Details of what TNA holds can be found in their leaflet L30. Most surviving material after 1750 is held in county archives, the finding aid being Gibson & Rogers. There is a 75-year closure period but exceptions can be made if you contact the local coroner's office.

Nurse children

A *nurse child* was one sent out to a woman paid to care for it, either by *wet-nursing* a baby, or *dry-nursing* an older infant, the latter term formerly meaning a child up to age 7. It was very popular amongst the middle and upper classes, although it was also used for foundlings, for example those from the Foundling Hospital and Christ's Hospital in London.

Those living in crowded cities would typically send their children to the far healthier countryside for their first three years or so. London parishes often had special ties with a certain village(s) in the home counties or even slightly further afield and children from that parish were nursed there over many years. Alternatively, the city family may have had a familial or trade tie with a country parish, perhaps the place of origin of the husband or wife and found a suitable wet- or dry-nurse through their own contacts.

Burial registers of the nurse-parish can provide much information about the child's family. Infant mortality being much higher than it is today, many of the thousands of nurse-children died in their early years and were usually buried in the nurse-parish. Their burial entries often have more information than is usual at the time since:

- Outsiders were normally given a greater write-up than parishioners.
- Both the parent (or foundling hospital) and the nurse needed a record of the date on which payment for services should end.
- If they were from upper class families this would be reason for more detail to be given.
- Children of members of the City of London Livery Companies would often have the name of their father's company recorded.

In addition to the child's name and date of burial other details may be recorded such as:

- A nurse-child from [London].
- The specific address or parish they were from.
- Name of the father (& sometimes mother).
- The father's occupation.
- The father's livery company.
- Name of the nurse.

This information may not have been given at the time of the child's christening, usually in its home parish, or indeed anywhere else!

Clark's two articles on nurse-children and their nurses make interesting reading; her period of study was 1540-1750, but the practice continued much later, nurse children being commonly found throughout the 19th century census returns as well.

An index to nurse child burials is being compiled through the Society of Genealogists. This will be of obvious value in providing clues to the origins of city inhabitants.

The brutal methods of baby rearing in the 17th-18th centuries are described by Wood (2000c) - it's a wonder that any of our ancestors survived!

Family Nutrition

In the mid-19th century the staple diet was bread and potatoes; fresh fruit and vegetables would only be available in season, and the protein portion was meagre. a typical list of weekly expenditures was given by Grindrod (Chart 24).

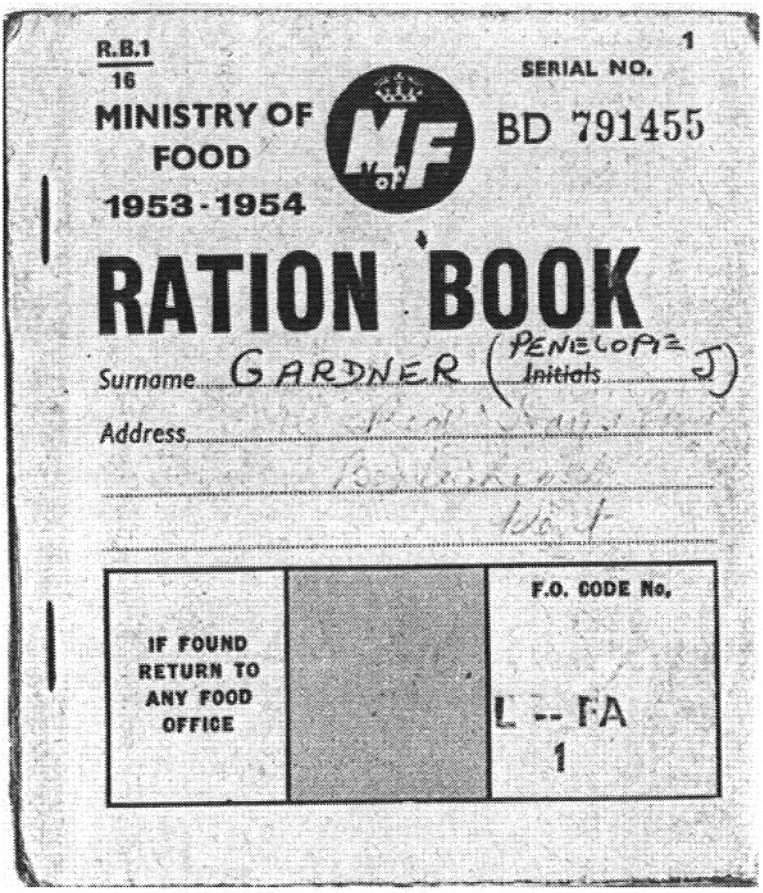
Chart 24: Typical Weekly Budget for 18th Century Family with Several Children

	s	d
4 x 4lb loaves of bread at 8d each	2	8
5lb cheap meat, bacon etc @ 5d per lb	2	1
1 gallon ale		9
Half cwt coal for cooking & heating	1	2
4 lbs potatoes	1	4
3oz tea and sugar	1	6
1lb butter		9
1lb cheese		6
Half lb soap		3
Half lb candles for lighting		3
Rent 2 to 5 shillings	5	0
Milk	1	0
School fees, if State provided		4
Clothing, furniture, funeral fund	1	0
TOTAL	18s	7d

Since their was no Old Age Pension until 1912, the elderly continued working as long as they could, and when incapable of working they went into the workhouse unless they had family or other support.

During the Second World War the population was probably better nourished than at any previous time because of public diet education and rationing of foods to the essentials. The latter continued for eight years after the end of the war, with more and more items coming *off ration* as the food supply got back to normal. My last *ration book* is shown in Chart 25, and indicates that the proteins (meats, eggs, cheese and bacon), fats and sugar were the last items to be rationed as they are on the only page used. See also the section on National Identity Cards and Wood (2001a and b).

Chart 25: 1953-54 British Ration Book


R.B.1
16
1
SERIAL NO.
MINISTRY OF FOOD
1953-1954
BD 791455
RATION BOOK
Surname GARDNER (PENELOPE J)
Initials
Address
IF FOUND RETURN TO ANY FOOD OFFICE
F.O. CODE No.
L -- FA
1

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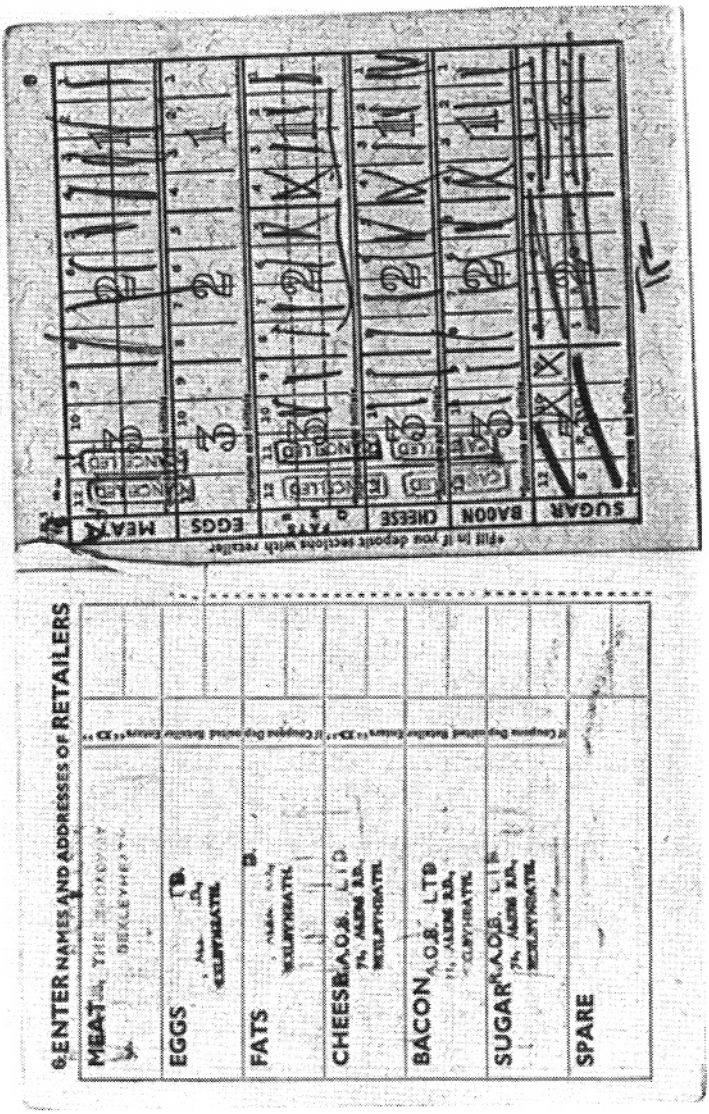


Public Health

In pre-Restoration times *our ancestors were not too bothered by sanitation* (Razzell) and the earthen floors were used in the absence of toilets until the 18th century. Brick flooring was introduced in the late 17th century and became very popular, since which time the English had a reputation for domestic cleanliness. The relationship of this to mortality rates is discussed by Razzell.

Taking the waters by drinking or bathing at curative spas having sulphur or chalybeate springs came from the continent as early as 1560 but was at its height of popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most fashionable centres were Bath and Wells in the west country and Epsom and Tunbridge Wells south of London.

There were many others, and your ancestors could have visited them from time to time, perhaps accounting for some of those inexplicable census absences. The Prince Regent, later George IV, popularised the restorative effects of sea air and bathing at Brighton in the early 19th century.

There was large-scale state intervention to promote good health during the 19th and 20th centuries. The first national public health board was convened in 1805-1806 regarding a fever then present in Spain and Gibraltar. In 1831-1832 there was another concerning the cholera outbreak in Britain.

Chadwick's 1842 *Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Poor* resulted in a Royal Commission on the Health of Towns which reported in 1844-1845. As a result of their deliberations the Public Health Act was passed in 1848 which encouraged Local Boards of Health to be established to survey and address their local needs. Smith quotes an example from these surveys:

Chart 26:
Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Poor
Example from Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire—1852

Eli Toose, living in the next house, said:
'We have had five children but they are all dead. I have always lived in this parish. I had the ague first when I was ten years of age; four years ago I was ill of it twenty five weeks; I am ill now, and shall never be well again. My wife is unfit to do anything, she is so ill. She had not been well for some years, and has had the chill.'
Unable to stand, this poor woman was sitting in a chair, endeavouring to wash a few clothes in some very dirty water. Both husband and wife looked more than half dead. The tears ran down both their faces while telling me their sorrowful tale.

Several other acts of parliament followed and by 1870 there were 700 authorities working under public health and government legislation, and these were not co-ordinated with the poor law and registration authorities. Outside the major towns parish vestries, boards of guardians, highway boards and others were all involved in public health matters.

To simplify all this two Public Health Acts of 1872 and 1874 established *rural* and *urban sanitary* authorities with the compulsory advice of a Medical Officer of Health (MOH). This explains the puzzling acronyms *USD (Urban Sanitary District)* and *RSD (Rural Sanitary District)* on registration certificates. In 1888 the new *county councils* appointed the MOH's and in 1894 *urban* and *rural district councils* became the administrators.

Several public health surveys were made between 1885 and 1895, the returns and correspondence being at The National Archives. TNA has records of the resulting acts and regulations and some local records survive in county archives, but they are unlikely to contain information about individuals.

Further information on public health in 19th century Britain can be found in TNA document D73. Of more direct use to the family historian are the *Charles Booth* surveys of poverty in London carried out from 1886 until around 1902. This massive 17-volume work contains street-by-street accounts of living and working conditions, and major occupations of those in each street.

A series of colour-coded maps accompanies the text to indicate the poverty levels as follows: *black* indicates extreme poverty, various *shades of blue* are slightly better-off, then rising through *purple* to the comfortable *pink*, the relatively affluent *red*, and top-of-the-scale affluent *yellow*.

Booth's most detailed accounts are of the east end and central London, and Battersea south of the river, which are in volume 1. It is important to know that Booth used pseudonyms for both streets and people in this volume, however in volume 2 he gives a key to the real street names.

The exact date of each walk he did with the police officers is noted, and you can get information about individuals if you have an exact address and use the Booth notebooks in conjunction with the census returns. The rest of metropolitan London is covered in further volumes but in a less detailed manner, and with more emphasis on poor rather than affluent neighbourhoods. Several volumes are devoted to the conditions of work in different trades, which give descriptive material relevant to any ancestor in that trade.

The original published edition is hard to find, but Steele has collected the information on south east London districts in book format, and this is reviewed in Family History News and Digest volume 13 #2, page 91.

Scott has a pair of excellent articles in Family Tree Magazine, published before the LSE (London School of Economics) digitised and indexed the notebooks and put them online at http://booth.lse.ac.uk/. Not everything is online but some examples are in Chart 27.

Chart 27: Charles Booth's Notebooks

Stoke Newington, Middlesex
Oct 11 1897

A sketch map of the district covered begins at the police station at the north end, Arcola St at south, Rectory Rd on east, and Nevill Rd on west.

Walk with Inspector F. Thorpe of the N Division. Headquarters of the Division are at the Police Station in the Newington High Street. The Superintendent is Macfadden. Thorpe has been 21 years in the service. Ten years ago he was stationed in this Division. After that he went as a sergeant to Clerkenwell. Now he has been here 3 yrs as an Inspector.

He is a round, podgy man of medium height, moustache, pleasant good humoured face & voice...

Starting at the police station in the High Street. Then a little way south turning east at Church Road here are the National Schools built 1837. Pink in character. Houses rented at £32 a year. Running North out of it are Glading Terrace and Leswin Road, roads of 2 storied houses with bow windows on the ground floor. Pink.

The Lovat Arms, Burdett Road, Stepney, Middlesex
Feb 11 1898

Interview with Mr F. Friend, publican, owner of the Lovat Arms Public House in the Burdett Rd at the corner of Thomas St i.e. just north of the canal bridge, on an introduction from Mr. Reeve, manager of Truman, Hanbury & Buxtons.

Mr Friend is tall, dark, strong looking, about 45 years of age. His father took this same house on 1862. On the father's death in 1879 his mother carried it on with him as manager until 1891. Then she died and he has carried it in since.

The neighbourhood is working class & lower middle & middle class. The mainstay of his business in the winter is the jug trade. There is also a regular set from the Whitehead works opposite, & from Thomas St. Gold & Silver Refinery, that make use of his house.....

Straightsmouth, Greenwich **1 Aug 1899**

West of Randell's Place - purple

Through passage way under Railway Station into a row of houses facing the railway called *Straightsmouth*. Two cottages face north - nursery & comfortable. Pink. At west end 2 st[orey] & 2 ½ st[orey] houses. Houses clean & well kept except a few near the Board School. Postmen [Christensen's grandfather was a postman living here], many railway men, musicians etc. Pink. Purple near the school.

Near the west end is *Glaisher Street* a cul-de-sac with 2 st[orey] cottages, doors open into lower rooms. Windows of some look poor. Purple to LB.

NW from Straightsmouth into *Randel's Place*. Board School takes south side. N is 2 st[orey] houses, mixed, some coalies [coal heavers]. Looks quiet and [policeman] Mercer says rows twice a week- Saturdays and Sundays. Purple.

The Ministry of Health was created in 1919 and various public assistance bodies succeeded the poor law authorities in 1930. The National Archives leaflet D109 describes the relevant records for the period 1919-1939 kept there.

National Identity & Health Service Numbers

- **Those born prior to WWII**. In 1939, as a preparation for wartime rationing and security the British government issued everyone with a *National Identity Registration Number*. This consisted of a four-letter code for your area and a number under 1000 indicating your household, followed by a slash or colon and then a single digit representing your place in the household. Example: AEGP125/2

- **For those born from 29 Sep 1939** a four letter area code for your birthplace was followed (without a slash or colon) by the entry number in column 1 on your birth certificate. Example: DWXC 367.

- **After WWII** the same system continued but with the introduction of the National Health System in 1948 the number became your National Health Service (NHS) Number.

Some changes in area codes have been made over the years and a five-letter code was adopted for those born from 1965. The whole number is on the short-form birth certificate for those born since September 1939, but only the number and not the area code on the long-form certificate.

The examples that follow show the registrar's number on a birth certificate during WWII (Chart 28), the area code and same number on the National Registration Identity Card (Chart 29), and the same on the later National Health Service Medical Card (Chart 30).

During and after the war the ID card had to be produced and stamped in order to obtain a new ration book when the old one ran out (see Chart 25 and Wood 2001a and b).

Chart 28: Column 1 of Birth Certificate

DB 979739

The Statutory Fee for this Certificate is 2s. 7d. If required subsequently to registration, a Search Fee is payable in addition.

Pur

Registrat

1 943 . Birth in the Sub-Distric

Columns :—	1	2
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.
367	Twenty sixth December 1942. 1, Buckingham Road, Winslow R.D.	Penelope Janet

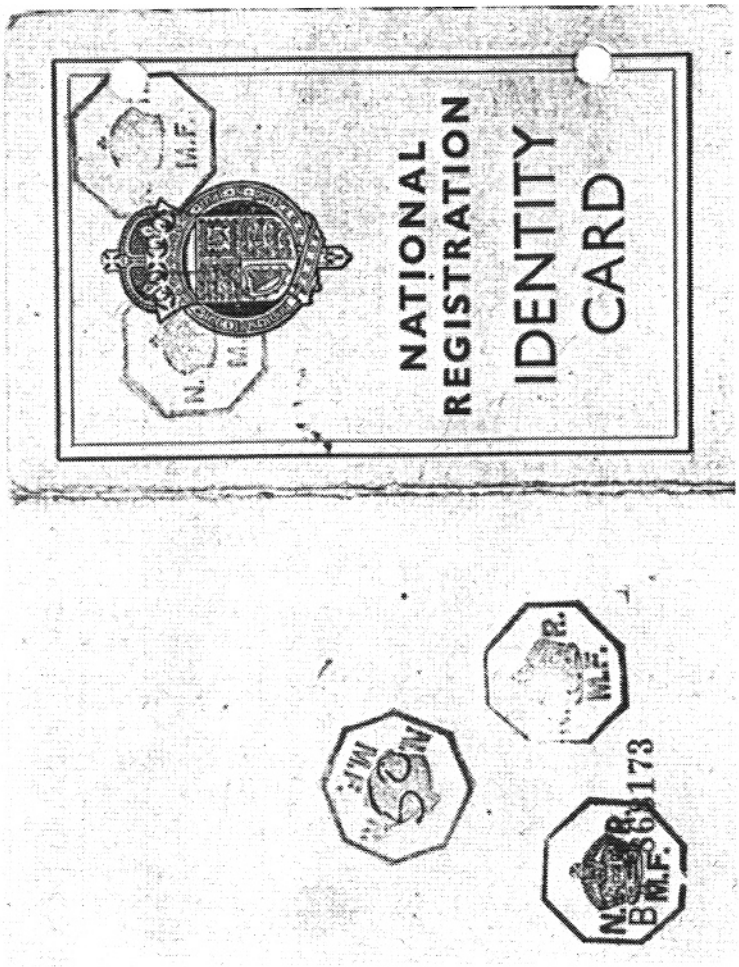
I, ERNEST VICTOR THURSFIELD , Registi
do hereby certify that this is a true copy of th

WITNESS MY

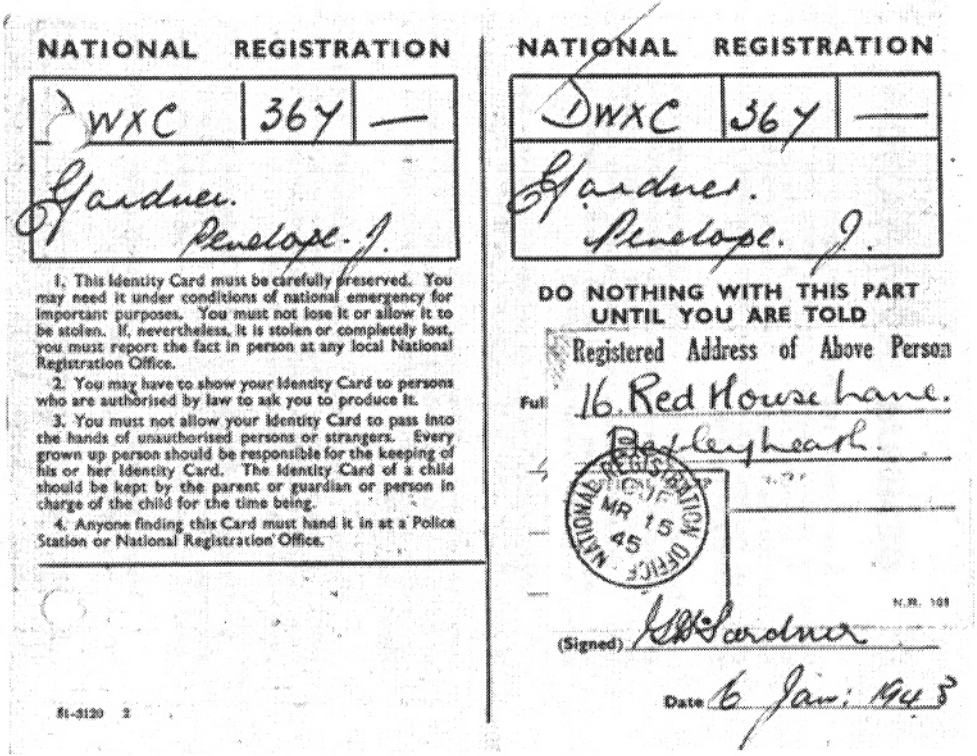
CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the p Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be to Prosecution.

Chart 29: National Registration Identity Card

Note five official stamps NR MF (probably National Registration, Ministry of Food) added when new ration books were issued.



→ Continued from the last page



NATIONAL REGISTRATION

DWXC | 364 | —

Gardner.
Penelope. J.

1. This Identity Card must be carefully preserved. You may need it under conditions of national emergency for important purposes. You must not lose it or allow it to be stolen. If, nevertheless, it is stolen or completely lost, you must report the fact in person at any local National Registration Office.

2. You may have to show your Identity Card to persons who are authorised by law to ask you to produce it.

3. You must not allow your Identity Card to pass into the hands of unauthorised persons or strangers. Every grown up person should be responsible for the keeping of his or her Identity Card. The Identity Card of a child should be kept by the parent or guardian or person in charge of the child for the time being.

4. Anyone finding this Card must hand it in at a Police Station or National Registration Office.

51-3120 2

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

DWXC | 364 | —

Gardner.
Penelope. J.

DO NOTHING WITH THIS PART UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Registered Address of Above Person

Full 16. Red House Lane.
Bagleyheath.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION OFFICE MR 15 45

N.R. 101

(Signed) P.B. Gardner

Date 6 Jan: 1943

Chart 30: National Health Service Medical Card

2.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. This card shows the name of the doctor who has arranged to give you general medical treatment under the National Health Service. It should be shown to him if he asks to see it; if it is not produced the doctor may charge a fee for which he will give an official receipt. This receipt form contains instructions for your recovery of the fee.

2. **Day Visits.** Please do not ask the doctor to call unless the patient is too ill to attend his surgery. Attendance at the surgery should be during surgery hours unless otherwise arranged by the doctor. When the condition of the patient does require a home visit, please try to give notice, if at all possible, before 10 a.m. on the day on which the visit is required.

3. **Night Visits.** Please do not call in the doctor between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. unless you really need him.

4. **Accident & Emergency.** In emergency where your doctor is not available, immediate treatment can be obtained from any doctor giving general medical services under the National Health Service Act.

5. **Medical treatment when temporarily away from home.** If you are away from your usual address for a short time, application for treatment may be made to any doctor giving general medical services. (See 7 below.)

6. **Change of Doctor.** A change of doctor may be made at any time. (See parts A and B opposite). This card should be left with the new doctor. It will be returned by the Executive Council.

7. **List of Doctors.** A list of doctors giving general medical services can be seen at local Post Offices.

8. Any enquiry or complaint should be made to the Clerk of the Executive Council at the address shown on the front page of this Card. A complaint should, wherever possible, be made within 6 weeks of the event which gave rise to the complaint.

Postage must be paid on all letters to Executive Councils.

Blood Groups

Family and local historians are greatly interested in the work of geneticists on mapping blood groups. They confirm the evidence provided by surname distribution and community studies that most families remained close to their roots for many hundreds of years, at least until the Industrial Revolution. The origins of the main types have been described as:

- *Type O* probably Celtic stock i.e. Irish, Cornish, Scottish, North Wales. Also Hampshire and Surrey.
- *Type A* is continental i.e. Angles, Saxons, Normans. Common around the Wash (Lincolnshire, Norfolk).
- *Type B* is fairly rare.
- *Type AB* is the rarest group but common amongst gypsies (wrongly called *Egyptians* in old parish registers) and in NW India from whence they derive.

Lawrence contributed a good article on her family's blood groups.

DNA

The relatively new science of molecular genealogy has established that each individual who has ever lived has a unique genetic makeup. There are three kinds of tests that can be done to investigate genetic markers in DNA using:

- Autosomal genes on the 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes. These are shuffled every generation and are the ones largely responsible for the uniqueness of each individual.

- Y sex chromosome of the males in the family. The Y chromosome is passed almost without changes from father to son, and there is a good correlation with surnames, but this is not perfect—and we all know why!

- Mitochondrial DNA which is inherited by all children from their mother, but only passed on by daughters.

Joyce explains about the *Human Genome Project* and the uses of DNA samples in family history, such as:

- Corroborating a family connection with a deceased person.
- Where descent from a well-known individual is possible.
- When bastardy is suspected.
- Checking relatedness where a family connection is uncertain.

- Tracing natural parents of adopted children or those conceived in the laboratory.

He discusses future usage of the technique, and Michael Wood makes further hypotheses on this theme.

Wall discusses how a study of the genomic and mitochondrial DNA of Anna Anderson and the Romanovs proved that they were not related, and who she really was. Chandler has the story of Queen Victoria and haemophilia (and the intriguing possibility that she may have been illegitimate), as well as the Cheddar man and his modern descendant.

Further comments on the potential of DNA testing for delving further back than written records. Rawlings relates a wonderful story about how DNA analysis sorted out the parentage of siblings in her family.

A world wide population study, the *Molecular Genealogy Research Project* collects samples for DNA analysis and correlates with the donors pedigree charts - see http://smgf.org:8081/pubgen/site0.jsp to contribute as an individual or to arrange for them to come to a conference to give a lecture and take samples (minimum 50 people). We organized such a spit party, as one wag called it, at Abbotsford Family History Center and it was a huge success.

For further information read *The Genes in Your Genealogy* by Bell & Arvanitis in this series of Heritage Productions books.

HOSPITALS

Early History

Most of the monastic hospices, a term which included lodging for travellers, housing the elderly and infirm, as well as tending the sick, were destroyed in the 1530s at the Reformation. There were a few exceptions which were re-founded under lay control, notably the Royal hospitals of St. Bartholomew's (*Bart's*), St. Thomas's, Bridewell, and the Bethlehem/Bethlem (*Bedlam*) hospital for the insane, all in London. In 1551 a court decided that three hospitals (St. Thomas, Bridewell and Christ's) should care for:

300 fatherless children
200 sore and sick persons
350 poore men overburdened with Children
400 aged persons
650 decayed householders
200 ydell vagabondes

Other mediaeval hospices were founded by private benefactors or charitable groups such as livery companies and guilds and there are early records of the people who contributed amongst the records of the appropriate institutions.

Infirmaries and hospitals were also founded in Tudor times, but the 18th century was the real age of hospital foundation with a commitment to science and philanthropy in the medical field.

During this century the population almost doubled as a result of an increased birth rate and a very much reduced death rate due to improved medical services. Another factor in the cities was the decline in consumption of cheap gin.

The famous *London teaching hospitals* of Guy's, St. George's, Westminster, London and Middlesex were all founded between 1720 and 1745. Altogether 154 new hospitals and dispensaries opened between 1700 and 1825 by co-ordinated voluntary effort and subscription. Most of them were taken into the National Health Service after its inception in 1948. The foundation dates of the major hospitals and asylums are given by Richardson, and the history of the development of medicine in London by Beresford.

19th Century Hospitals

In 1802 in Reading, Berkshire a group of local doctors set up a *dispensary* to provide medicines and advice free of charge, which was dealing with over a thousand patients a year by 1848. By 1820 there were 60 dispensaries in England, but they had no facilities for overnight or long-term cases. Records are unlikely to have been kept. Those who could afford to do so were *treated at home* by a visiting doctor who made his income from these wealthier patients, and donated his time 'for the experience' at the voluntary hospital. Nurses could be hired out privately by the hospital that trained them. Improvements in hygiene and sanitation, and the developments in anaesthetics and antiseptics, made hospitals less fearful in the late 19th century.

There were some *private hospitals* for which patients paid; perhaps they were somewhat cleaner, less crowded and more respectable than the regular sort.

Generally only the poor would be admitted to most early, *voluntary hospitals* (funded by voluntary contributions) as they were dirty, crowded and staffed by untrained nurses. The system for admission depended upon getting a letter of recommendation from one of the benefactors of the hospital, rather than from a doctor.

This was particularly inefficient for urgent cases and eventually it changed so that the poor just presented themselves at the hospital. It was open 24 hours a day and patients queued up on wooden benches for their turn to be examined, treated or admitted. Jones wrote about conditions for entrance to the Taunton & Somerset voluntary hospital in the early 19th century.

Letters from steward John White to his employer Lord Palmerston in March 1757, (Chart 31), refer to the outbreak of smallpox in Romsey, Hampshire and the system of recommendations (Dewey 2003b):

Chart 31:
Letters Regarding Hospital Recommendations

I have today an account from Mr. Seward that he is taken ill of the smallpox and in a dangerous way.
The father of Elizabeth Eastman of Romsey Extra [-parochial area] called here two or three days ago to desire your Lordship would send his daughter to the County Hospital. I would have done it myself but I have one there already.
The widow Vince and two of her children are now in the smallpox but she has it so very light that she is almost well again. I will send some blank Recommendations to the County Hospital by the next basket to be signed by your Lordship and Lady Palmerston of which, when I receive them back, I will endeavour to make the most proper use by sending to the hospital the most deserving objects.

By the 1840s ether and chloroform were being used as anaesthetics, which eased the pain of operations, but did not deal with the frequent problem of infection of the wounds. In 1867 Lister proved that carbolic acid would destroy germs and eliminate septic infection, thus revolutionising surgery.

Now hospitals could offer a real hope for cure, and not just be a charity for the sick poor, and from this time on the voluntary hospitals started to provide beds for paying patients. Many became significant research and teaching institutions where large numbers of patients with the same condition could be studied and cures effected.

During the Victorian era several *specialist hospitals* developed for those cases not taken by the voluntary, general hospitals. These included facilities for children, incurables, patients with chronic conditions, pregnant women, the mentally ill, and isolation hospitals for infectious diseases.

By the 1860s there were 66 specialist hospitals in London alone. It helps the genealogist to know that clean air and open spaces were favoured for the mentally ill and for infectious diseases, and these institutions may be some way outside the major cities where their ancestors came from.

The voluntary hospitals were mainly concentrated in larger towns and cities; another development, in small towns and rural areas was the *cottage hospital*, with 6-26 beds, catering for a local community's needs. The first was erected in 1859 and by 1895 there were nearly 300. They were the first port of call for the sick or injured and many continue in use today, being absorbed into the National Health System after WWII.

In the late 19th century working class people were encouraged to pay into subscription schemes to help maintain their hospital. Many gave a penny a week and then had a right to treatment rather than receiving it as charity. I recommend Mitton's well-illustrated guide to Victorian hospitals to understand what the medical system was like for patients in the 19th century.

Poor Law Infirmaries

After the dissolution of the monasteries there was no public assistance for the sick until the Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601. Even then, there was no requirement for a parish to set up a hospital or provide medical services and most could not afford to do so. Gradually, as workhouses were built, many included an infirmary where untrained nurses, or other inmates, provided the care. Local doctors would grudgingly provide a service paid for by the Overseers of the Poor or Guardians of the Workhouse to supplement an insufficient private practice (Chart 32).

Chart 32: Doctor's Bill to Crayford, Kent Overseers of Poor 1832

Overseers Misc PA/103/16/2

Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Crayford				
1832	To John Grantham	L	s	d
To Bill delivered		20	9	6
Nov 16	Vaccinated one child Oliver		2	6
Dec 13	" two children Welling		5	0
Dec 14	" Golding 1, Brooker 2		7	6
	" Farmer		2	6
Dec 21	Truss for Woolridge	1	1	0
Dec 25	Quarter's Salary	8	15	0
		31	3	0

Conditions in workhouse infirmaries were definitely worse than in the voluntary hospitals. But oftentimes there was no local poor infirmary or hospital and a parishioner could be sent to one of the larger city hospitals.

Such a case is related by Davey, where a woman from the Kent countryside was sent to the Middlesex Hospital in London. He shows examples of both poor law and hospital records concerning payments for her for several years.

The Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867 required the provision of a separate infirmary building or separate accommodation within the workhouse for the sick. Thus hospitals which were founded during the 1870s and 1880s probably developed out of a workhouse infirmary. One was St. Andrew's in Stepney, founded in 1871 (Springer) at a time when the only qualification needed by a nurse was that she could read the labels on the medicine bottles! In the 1860s non-paupers were admitted to workhouse infirmaries, at first comprising about one-third of cases, and by 1911 these infirmaries provided four times the number of beds as did the voluntary sector. It is thus common to find your ancestor dying in the *union infirmary* even if they weren't a pauper. Consult Christensen (2001c) to find out which *poor law union* your parish was in.

Workhouses were taken over by local authorities in 1929 and all the records transferred to them, thus they should be in the county archives. The workhouses continued to provide a home for those not taken into special facilities until 1949 when the last few closed. Workhouse infirmaries became municipal hospitals for the general public, but it became increasingly difficult for the voluntary subscriptions to cover the costs of rapidly advancing treatment methods.

Army & Navy Hospitals

Prior to the Crimean War (1854-56) there were only three military general hospitals in the UK - at Chatham, Cork and Dublin. Two more, Woolwich and Netley (near Southampton) were added afterwards. There were also two institutions for wounded and disabled soldiers which were not strictly medical establishments. These were the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, London, and the Royal Kilmainham Hospital in Dublin which received soldiers not according to ethnicity but by their place of discharge from the army. They had both in-pensioners and out-pensioners, the latter received an allowance but lived at home.

Children's Hospitals

Great Ormond Street Hospital, founded in 1852 was the first children's institution and by 1888 there were 37 more around Britain. They dealt mainly with acute and urgent cases.

Foundlings & Orphans

Destitute, abandoned and orphan children were the responsibility of civil parishes from the 16th to 19th centuries and the overseers of the poor apprenticed them to local, or not so local, householders; see the author's *Researching English Poor Law & Parish Chest Records* for further details.

From the latter part of the 18th century such children were unloaded on factory owners in the Midlands and North and many suffered appalling conditions.

In 1741 Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital opened in London and the records show the support given by benefactors such as an organ from Handel, and a painting from Hogarth.

Clark describes in detail the process of admission of the child, how it was identified, given a new name and assigned to a wet-nurse in the home counties, and how inspectors supervised them. Orphaned children of soldiers, and some children of deserted women were accepted after 1763, but after 1772 only real foundlings and exposed or deserted children were supposed to be admitted. Most of those admitted after 1801 were illegitimate.

Camp describes how some children were eventually reclaimed by their parents and the records available for them. Infant mortality was high and parish records often indicate those from the Foundling Hospital, an example being in Chart 33.

Chart 33: Burials in Withyham, Sussex of Children from the Foundling Hospital

There is a group of them in a one-year span, all noted as *infant from ye foundling Hospital*. It would be interesting to know the history of the use of this parish for foundlings.

1759	13 Jun	John Aldsborough
1760	16 Jan	John Ransford
1760	20 Jan	Eunice Walters
1760	1 Feb	Judith Berriman
1760	8 Feb	Nathaniel Denne
1760	13 Apr	Erespas Hull
1760	19 Apr	Thomas Corner

From 1838 the Poor Law Guardians were responsible for orphanages and large numbers of voluntary orphanages were built during the 19th century to cope with the growing problem of destitute urban children.

The work of Dr. Barnardo is the most well-known online: www.barnardos.org.uk/whoweare/history/index.jsp but there were hundreds of others, including many who sponsored child migrants to Canada and Australia (see www.doh.gov.uk/childmigrants). Cavell has written on internet sources for children's homes and orphanages.

Isolation Hospitals

From the mid-19th century certain diseases had to be notified to the central authorities, and those with infectious diseases were isolated in special *fever hospitals*, including *hospital ships* used for this purpose. For example, hulks moored in the Thames were used as floating hospitals during the smallpox epidemics of 1871-2 and 1880-1, and Woodlock describes the records available for a little smallpox victim on the ship *Atlas* in the Thames off Dartford in 1892, with further discussion by Gallagher (2002).

Two kinds of *smallpox* isolation hospitals for private patients developed during the early 18th century. The first was for those who had caught the natural disease and whose family or employer could afford to send them to recover and prevent them from infecting others. The second was for those being prepared for inoculation and recovering from it, and could include servants of the well-heeled as well as the families themselves.

The first voluntarily supported (i.e. free) smallpox hospital was the London Smallpox & Inoculation Hospital founded in 1746. And others were set up around the country, some charging a fee for inoculation.

Another kind of isolation hospital was the *tuberculosis sanatorium*.

Lunatic Asylums

First a word about the meaning of term *asylum* which nowadays tends to mean a place of treatment for the mentally ill. This was not the case formerly when the word had its original meaning of a *sanctuary* or *place of refuge*. This might have been for criminals, debtors, or any afflicted or destitute persons. Thus not every institution termed an asylum was for the mentally ill.

The genealogist will encounter various terms to describe those with mental problems of one kind or another. It is impossible to really define these, they were not used consistently in the past, and some have different meanings today. A rough guide follows:

- **Feeble-minded**—Senile dementia

- **Idiot**—Congenital mental deficiency with no lucid periods. Natural fools from birth. Incapable of attending to own personal needs
- **Imbecile**—Persons who have fallen in later life into a state of chronic dementia. Could perform some simple functions of self help, whilst having only a limited grasp of ideas.

- **Lunatic** = **Insane** = **Mad** (but see other meaning)
  In the 17th C it was used for a person who had lucid periods, thought to coincide with phases of the moon. Some were merely highly intelligent and/or eccentric in their behaviour. By 1845 the term was officially *persons of unsound mind.* In the 19th century censuses the term sometimes included idiots and imbeciles. Now we restrict these old terms to those having such mental unsoundness as interferes with civil rights or transactions.

- **Mad**—Formerly a raging lunatic, but nowadays has connotation of being a wildly foolish person.

- **Melancholia**—Clinical depression.

- **Mentally ill**—A more modern term for having a temporary, usually treatable, disordered mind.

- **Mentally disabled**—A more modern term for having a permanent insufficiency of mental power.

The last column on 19th century census returns (the so-called *deaf-and-daft column*) asked householders to classify their mentally infirm relatives as imbeciles, idiots or lunatics but the results are very untrustworthy.

Prior to the mid-18th century mental illness was not recognized as such and the sufferers were treated as criminals, paupers or vagrants. Most would have spent time in the workhouse, prison or wandering and constantly hounded by the authorities. In London, there was one ancient hospital which catered for them, St. Mary of Bethlehem or Bethlem, founded as a priory in 1247 and converted into an asylum in 1547. It was known colloquially as *Bedlam*, from whence derives the modern word for a cacophonous situation, and people were allowed to view the inmates as an entertainment!

Those who could afford to do so committed relatives whose behaviour was an embarrassment to fashionable society to one of the numerous small private *mad houses*. They were profit-motivated and conditions in many were deplorable. Hawker has stated that none kept records identifying inmates, a discreteness required by their families. However from 1774, when they had to raise their standards to be licensed by the justices of the peace, records of the JPs and medical practitioners survive in county archives. These include admissions, discharges, deaths, the *official visitors'* reports and minutes of meetings. Hawker reports on some examples in Dorset, Burt on Hampshire and Jenkins in more detail about treatments and records at the Somerset asylum. Adams reports on conditions prior to and during his 30-year career as a male lunatic nurse.

The *County Asylums Act* of 1808 encouraged the provision of a lunatic asylum in each county, and in 1854 this was made mandatory. Numbers of beds rose from 12,000 in 1850 to 100,000 in 1900 (Mitton), but

harmless paupers were left in workhouses from the 1870s as it was cheaper; only the dangerously insane being sent to the county asylums. *Commissioners in Lunacy* were appointed in boards of ten for inspecting asylums. Other terms that will be encountered in the records are:

- *Commission of Lunacy* which authorized an enquiry into a person's sanity.
- *Visitor* or *Master in Lunacy* was the officer investigating cases of alleged lunacy.
- A *single lunatic* was one being cared for at home.
- A *chancery lunatic* was a wealthy person who became insane and incapable of managing his own affairs and the Chancery Court protected his estate.
- A *criminal lunatic* was a convicted criminal whose reason was impaired and was considered dangerous to society.

Most of the surviving patient records will be found in the county or local archives in sections on private madhouses, poor law records (Chart 34), and county asylums, as well as in quarter sessions. Some institutions which continue as hospitals retain their records. Others, such as criminal cases involving the insane, poor law returns of insane inmates, naval lunatics, and chancery records concerning property of lunatics (Charts 35 and 36) can be found at TNA. The *registers of patient files* from 1846-1960 are at TNA in MH94 and contain name and sex of the patient, institution, admission and discharge (or death) dates (Cleaver 2003).

Chart 34: Bill & Receipt from Kent Lunatic Asylum to Crayford Parish 1833 - Overseers Misc PA/103/16/2

(To) The Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of *Crayford*
Dr. --- To the VISITING JUSTICES appointed to Superintend the Management of the Kent Lunatic Asylum
For the Maintenance and Care, Medicine and Clothing, of the undermentioned Pauper

Name of Pauper	*William Palmer*
During what Period Maintained	*From 30 Sep to 31 Dec 1833*
Number of Weeks	*13*
Rate per Week	*9/-*
Amount Due	*£5.17s.0*

RECEIVED the *22nd* day of *Jany 1834* of the Overseers of the Parish of *Crayford* the sum of *Five Pounds and Seventeen Shillings* for Maintenance & of Paupers in the Kent County Lunatic Asylum.
£5. 17 .0
R. Harrison
for J. Wallambry (?),Treasurer

For further information consult TNA leaflets D104-105 for official acts, commissions and central records and Mitton for information about lunatic hospitals. Faithfull gives the history of how lunacy was viewed, treatments and asylums, as well as how to find records of lunatics. She has separate sections on women, chancery, criminal and naval lunatics as well as famous *mad doctors* i.e. doctors specializing in treating lunatics; all this in one inexpensive booklet. The Wellcome Institute has a register of the location of most hospital records. An application for a chancery inquisition concerning the supposed lunacy of a distant relative in 1859 is given in chart 35, and the inquisition itself in chart 36. These records are at TNA under C 211/32/24/116938.

Chart 35: Application for Chancery Lunacy Inquisition for Rachel DASHWOOD 1859

[Two £1 chancery stamps affixed here]

Saturday the Sixteenth day of April in the Twenty second year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and in the year One thousand eight hundred and Fifty nine

In the Matter of Rachel Hannah Dashwood Spinster a supposed Lunatic

Whereas John Allfree and Sydney Aleyne the Executors of the Will of William Allfree deceased who was the surviving Trustee and Executor of the Will of Robert Dashwood the Father of the said supposed Lunatic have preferred their Petition in this matter stating as therein is stated and Praying that the Masters in lunacy or one of them may be directed to enquire and certify concerning the lunacy of the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood. Now upon reading the said Petition the two several Affidavits of Thomas Harvey Lowry and Charles Christopher Hayman sworn respectively the seventh day of March last the Affidavit of the said Sydney Alleyne sworn the Tenth day of March last and the Affidavit of William Henry Morgan sworn the Twenty fifth day of March last of the due service of notice of the presentation of the said petition on the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood on the twenty fourth day of March last. We do order that Francis Barlow and Samuel Warren Esquires the Masters in lunacy or one of them do in pursuance of the general Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain to them for that purpose directed inquire concerning the alleged lunacy of the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood now residing in the Asylum kept by the said Thomas Harvey Lowry at West Malling in the County of Kent. And we do further Order that the said Inquiry be held at the place of abode of the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood or as near thereto as conveniently may be.

J. L Knight Bruce (?)
G.J. Turner

Annotated at side: By virtue of Her Majesty's General Commission and of the Order I have made the Inquiry thereby directed as appears by the Inquisition hereunto annexed.

Chart 36: Chancery Lunacy Inquisition for Rachel DASHWOOD 1859

Filed 14th May 1859

County of Kent to wit **AN INQUISITION** taken at the house of Thomas Harvey Lowry situate at West Malling in the County of Kent this twelfth day of May in the twenty second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith and in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty nine by **Francis Barlow** esquire, one of the Commissioners of our said Lady the Queen by virtue of **Her Majesty's** General Commission under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing date at Westminster the twenty sixth day of February One thousand eight hundred and fifty nine to **Francis Barlow** and **Samuel Warren** Esquires the Masters in Lunacy directed and under an Order of **The Right Honorable the Lords Justices of the Court of Appeal in Chancery** made on the sixteenth day of April One thousand eight hundred and fifty nine and which Order is to this Inquisition annexed to enquire of the Lunacy of **Rachel Hannah Dashwood** spinster now residing in the Asylum kept by the said Thomas Harvey Lowry at West Malling in the County of Kent aforesaid. He the said Francis Barlow having personally examined the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood and taken Evidence and called for Information to ascertain whether or not the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood is of unsound mind **Finds** that the said Rachel Hannah Dashwood is a person of unsound mind so that she is not sufficient for the government of herself, her manors, messuages, lands, tenements, goods and chattels. And the said Francis Barlow certifies the same accordingly, *In testimony* whereof the said Francis Barlow has to this Inquisition set his name and seal the day and year first above written.

Francis Barlow

Lying-in (Maternity) Hospitals

These were established in many towns during the 18th century, as an alternative to home births. Some run by religious groups or spinsters refused to accept unmarried women, or even married women for their first birth in case the child was conceived before marriage.

The *British Lying-In Hospital*, Endell Street, Holborn, London has five films of registers covering Particulars of Patients 1754-1868 (Chart 37) and Births & Baptisms 1749-1814 (Chart 38) which are on the IGI.

Chart 37: British Lying-in Hospital, Holborn
Particulars of Patients 1776 FILM 0916631
#13277

Day of order of Admission	22 Nov 1776
Woman & husband's name	DASHWOOD, Catherine wife of Jn°
Occupation	Butler
Age	22
Settlement	St. George Hanover Square
Reckoning	End November
Came in	29 November
Went out on leave	--
Returned	--
Delivered	30 November Boy
Child baptized	12 December John
Discharged	22 December
Recommender	Portland

I wonder if the father was butler to the 3rd Duke of Portland who was twice prime minister?

Chart 38: British Lying-in Hospital Register of Births & Baptisms 1791 RG8/64

The minister seemed to come round once a fortnight to christen the latest batch.

No	Born	Child & Parents Names	Baptized
20314 20315	Feb 19	Charlotte & Mary of William & Martha Brown—twins	3 Mar
20316	Feb 19	Susannah Beverly of Richard & Catherine Joyce	3 Mar
20317	Feb 20	Elizabeth of Joseph & Mary Dolphin	3 Mar
20318	Feb 20	William of John & Abery Holden	3 Mar
20319	Feb 19	Elizabeth of Michael & Sarah Anderson	3 Mar
20320	Feb 21	Christiana of William & Jane Coming	3 Mar
20321	Feb 23	Samuel of Robert & Mary Stoney	3 Mar
20322	Feb 23	Harriot of Henry & Jane Kite	3 Mar
20323	Feb 23	James of James & Ann Griffin	3 Mar
20324	Feb 24	Elizabeth of Thomas & Elizabeth Gibbs	3 Mar
20325	Feb 25	Francis of Francis & Mary Norton	3 Mar
20326	Feb 26	Richard London of William & Mary Pepperel	3 Mar
20327	Feb 27	Maurice of Maurice & Jane Fennesey	3 Mar

Gallagher (1999) has presented a detailed study of the *Westminster Lying-In Hospital* including pictures of the buildings, many names, and photocopies of an *order for admission*, an *examination certificate* and an *affidavit*.

20th Century Hospitals

The coalition government of WWII placed hospitals under government control so they could be effectively managed for both civilian and returning forces casualties. Thus, my great grandfather, hospitalised in Greenwich in SE London, was sent to a Glasgow hospital to free up beds for injured servicemen shipped from Europe. This centralised system laid the foundation for the National Health Service brought in under the National Health Act of 1948 which provided free health service for everyone. At first, most NHS hospitals were former Victorian hospitals and workhouse infirmaries but replacements and modifications have been made, for example:

- Former cottage hospitals have often been changed into extended care facilities.

- Sanatoria for infectious diseases have not been necessary since the widespread use of antibiotics after WWII and have been changed to other uses.

- Specialist hospitals have commonly been merged to form special departments in larger municipal and county hospitals.

- Most of the large, remote mental asylums are redundant since community care and drug therapy now predominate.

Many old buildings were unable to be modified for modern usage and have been demolished or converted to other uses such as senior's residences, housing, offices and a few are even hotels.

HOSPITAL RECORDS

Categories of Records

Phillips categorises records which may be available as:

- *Administrative*, including estate records and finances, account books and minutes of meetings. People mentioned are the governors, tradesmen supplying the hospital, persons dealing with the hospital about property, employees (who usually lived in) and the occasional patient.

- *Medical records* of three major types:
  1. *Admissions & Discharge Registers* may be very sketchy in earlier times, for example just the names, arranged by ward and unindexed. However some, for both in-and out-patients can be most useful for the family historian. They can contain ages and addresses for patients, the dates of admission and discharge as well as the treatment given. Sometimes indexes have been prepared.

  2. *Death Registers* which from the mid-18th century can include name, date admitted, date died, parish, if buried in the hospital or not. A century later there may, in addition, be the patient's age, ward in the hospital, disease, civil state, occupation, address, name of friend or undertaker who removed the body. Do not expect them to be indexed but be joyful if they are!

3. *Case Histories* still exist back to the early 1800s, and occasionally earlier (Chart 39), and may be indexed by patient and by disease. However, because of volume and expense many were culled after 25 years from the time they were last opened. They can show the complete case history, the treatment and the outcome, including any post-mortems, and were originally intended for student instruction. The usual 100-year closure rule for public records applies, although archivists have some discretionary ability.

Chart 39: Examples from Dr. John Symcotts Medical Case-Book 1642

De tuberculis rubris faciei [red pimples on the face]

Mr. Oliver Cromwell (long since) taking abundance of mithridate to avoyd ye infection of ye plague, cured his pimpled face, and this year 1642 Mr Burrell's eldest daughter having many small red spots breaking out of her face, was cured principally by ye use of mithridate taken every morning, ye quantity of about a dram at most at a time.

For casualties and outpatients there may be no records left in the hospital archives and Phillips suggest that local newspapers are likely to give details of accidents.

- *Medical and nursing administration & personnel records* are dealt with in the author's *Researching English Occupations: Professions and Trades*.

- *Other Sources*
  - *Subscription lists* (those who donated money)
  - *Files of newspaper cuttings* about the hospital
  - *Hospital annual reports* and *year books*
  - *Collections of photographs* of the hospital's wards and operating theatres.
  - *Records of associated facilities* such as medical or nursing schools and convalescent homes.

- *Census Returns*

  Those residing overnight in any institution will be enumerated there in the census returns, so those missing from a family grouping may be found this way. Remember that superintendents of certain institutions such as mental asylums were permitted to enter only initials for the names of their patients. In electronic searches these can be found trying various combinations of the initial, initial and a period, and initial and a space; it will appear as the transcriber saw it on the original.

Many useful examples of hospital records and repositories can be found in Bourne & Chicken, and in Amsden although the latter's book is primarily about medical personnel.

Location of Records

In 1957 hospital records were declared public records and as such could be deposited in county record offices, however, in practice they are too huge for these offices to handle. Only a few hospitals maintain an archivist, notably St. Bartholomew's, the Royal Bethlem (see Allderidge & Gale), and Oxford Health Authority. St.

Bartholomew's (*Bart's*) Hospital in London has one of the largest, oldest and complete accumulations of records in England. It was founded in 1123 and some 2,000 mediaeval deeds are extant; the majority of its records start in the 1530s. Humphery-Smith recounts his experiences with the Bethlem records, including a note on a Sussex vicar who committed himself because of dementia caused by a *surfeit of choirboys*!

The *Hospital Records Database* is a joint project of the *Wellcome Institute* and the *Public Record Office*. The aim is to record details of all known surviving hospital records in the UK.

The website is at http://hospitalrecords.pro.gov.uk/ and so far there are over 2,800 hospitals with entries, mainly of records deposited in archives. Researchers can find information in this database on:

- ✔ The administrative details of the hospitals and their status and type.
- ✔ The location and covering dates of administrative and clinical records.
- ✔ The existence of lists, catalogues or other finding aids.

There may be closure periods of up to 100 years for individual patient records, except via a doctor or social worker. It is always wise to contact the archivist of the relevant repository before you visit to find which records are open and whether you need an appointment. The *Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey (MAMS)* complements the above-mentioned Hospitals Records database by extending it into general practice, local authority public health departments, personal papers of patients etc. The website is in its early stage of

development to provide a consolidated finding aid for a huge number of scattered medical records: http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/collections/am_res_mam.shtml. Hilton provides further details.

LMA (*London Metropolitan Archives*) holds records of over 100 hospitals and institutions, such as St. Thomas' Hospital and the Nightingale Training School, Guy's Hospital, Hanwell and Colney Hatch asylums, Moorfields Eye Hospital and Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital. Many are not located within even the present, wide London boundaries but all around the home counties. In 1992 Foster listed those presently held by LMA. Their website is at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/libraries_archives_museums_galleries/lma/.

You can also write to the Hospital Administrator or Patients Service Manager of a specific hospital. However, few hospitals have the resources to do searches, but their attitude towards archival records is changing and more are depositing records or hiring their own professional archivists.

Cavell's article on internet sources of hospital records should not be missed. Family historians are urged to make use of hospital records as it encourages archivists to keep them!

Finding Records in the FHLC

There seems to have been no systematic collection or filming of English hospital records by the GSU (Genealogical Society of Utah) yet. The category of *medical records* only contains one item in the *Great Britain* section, about the 19th century vaccination acts. The section on England produces four general books and *medical records—19th century* contains only a medical directory. Similarly, a search of the county sections produces very little; two items on Eastbourne hospitals under Sussex, and one in Rutland, for example. Some can be found under a *subject search* for *hospitals*, but the majority of medical & hospital records that are at the FHL will be found with a place-name/locality search. They might be under *medical records*, *history, public records, cemeteries, church records* or *poorhouses*! A few selected to show the variety available include:

- *A centenary history of Halstead Hospital [Essex] 1884-1984*. FHL book 942.67/H1 H2cc (not yet filmed).
- *Children and adults in various hospitals, schools etc. 1884-1899; and a list of births 1872-1873 in Bow and Bromley [Middlesex]* on film 0254509.
- *Care and compassion: old prints and photographs of hospitals and nurses in Berkshire and Oxfordshire 1839-1930*. FHL book 942 J4r (not yet filmed).
- *Bully's Acre and Royal Hospital, Kilmainham [Dublin, Ireland - army] graveyards: history and inscriptions*. FHL book 941.83/K3 V3ba.

- *Bishop's transcripts of the Royal Navy Chapel of Hasler Hospital, Alverstoke Parish [Hampshire] 1831-1882* on film 1596021.
- *Baptisms at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill [London] 1887-1913* on film 2214953.
- *At the crossroads: a history of Arclid Workhouse and Hospital [Cheshire]* on film 1559433.

Diseases & Causes of Death

Medical Terminology

Family History journals are replete with notes on odd and amusing causes of death such as:

- Stoppage in the stomick.
- Extreme filthiness.
- Eating his own hair.
- Killed by standing too near a cow and a bull!

Some general points to note

- ✔ People were buried alive in the Middle Ages and later for various reasons, for example unconsciousness due to hypothermia, drug or alcohol overdose, or diabetic coma.
- ✔ How many infant deaths were misdiagnosed? Was pneumonia really cystic fibrosis? And could a succession of infant deaths have been due to the rhesus factor or congenital syphilis?
- ✔ Allergies were not understood.
- ✔ Schools were dependent on attendance numbers for their funding in the late 19th century so often did not close when there was an outbreak of infectious disease.

- ✔ Before doctors possessed sophisticated diagnostic techniques they tended to write *symptoms* rather than causes on death certificates.

The commonest medical terminology encountered by the family historian researching death and burial registers is given in Chart 40. For more on the conditions associated with our ancestors' diseases as well as conditions of childbirth see Underwood. Jerger's book on medical terminology for (mainly North American) genealogists is worthwhile, and Mearns gives a list of Scottish terms. There are several websites devoted to this subject, for example:
www.cyndislist.com/medical.htm#Diseases
includes:
www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm
www.rootsweb.com/~njmorris/disease.htm
www3.nb.sympatico.ca/pebbles2/tools.html#disease
http://olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml

Chart 40: Obsolete Medical Terminology

Ancient	Modern
Ague	Fever & chills of malaria, found in marshy areas of Britain; can also mean rheumatic heart disease
Anasarca	Generalized massive edema (swelling) starting in the feet and spreading upwards
Apoplexy	Stroke, sudden paralysis
Ascites	Water in the abdomen
Asiatic cholera	Cholera morbus
Bad blood	Syphilis
Black cholera	Cholera morbus
Black death	Bubonic plague
Bloody flux	Dysentery
Botch	Bubonic plague

Brain fever	Meningitis
Child-bed fever	Puerperal fever
Chin cough	Whooping cough
Climacteric	Severe sudden occurrence of something e.g. heart attack or stroke
Consumption	Pulmonary tuberculosis
Corruption	Infection
Decline	Usually a tuberculosis
Delirium tremens (DTs)	Hallucination due to alcoholism
Dropsy	Oedema / Edema (swelling) often caused by kidney or heart disease, liver failure and several other causes.
Dyspnoea	Difficulty in breathing
Enteric fever	Typhoid, but confused with typhus before 1860
Falling sickness	Epilepsy
Famine fever	Typhus
Fever	Could mean any febrile condition, but especially typhus
Fowle disease	Venereal disease
French pox	Venereal disease especially syphilis
Galloping consumption	Rapidly progressive TB
Gaol fever	Typhus
General paralysis (of the insane) (GPI)	A very common late stage of syphilis; tertiary syphilis
Glandular fever	Mononucleosis
Hydrocele	Water in the scrotal bag
Hydrocephalus	Enlarged head, water on the brain
Hydrothorax	Water in the chest
King's Evil	Scrofula (TB of lymphatic glands)
Lockjaw	Tetanus
Malignant fever	Typhus

Marasmus	Infantile debility, a condition where the child is unable to absorb nutrition from food. Could be caused by malnutrition or heart problem, congenital disease or intolerance to certain foods.
Mortification	Infection causing death of a part of the body, changing it to a black stinking mass.
Pest	Bubonic plague
Phthisis	Pulmonary tuberculosis
Putrid fever	Diphtheria, or sometimes typhus fever
Putrid fever	Typhus
Quinsy	Tonsillitis
Softening of the brain	Stroke
Spanish pox	Venereal disease especially syphilis
Spotted fever	Typhus
St. Anthony's fire	Erysipelas
Struma	Scrofula (TB of lymphatic glands)
Summer complaint	Diarrhoea usually in infants & caused by spoiled milk
Syncope	Fainting, or sudden loss of consciousness, probably associated with heart attack; can also mean an irregular heartbeat.
Teething	A catch-all, meaningless diagnosis for thousands of infant deaths. Goodger thinks that 'over-enthusiastic use of that arch-pacifier, laudanum' accounted for some, but 'bewilderment of the doctor' for a lot of the others!
Throat distemper or fever	Most probably diphtheria, but sometimes confused with scarlet fever
Visitation of God	Probably stroke or heart attack
Wasting	Could be caused by malnutrition or heart problem, congenital disease or intolerance to certain foods

Occupational diseases

Many of our ancestors' occupations contributed to their demise mainly because of generally dirty conditions, poor nutrition, causes of disease being unknown and the effect of working conditions not considered. Some of the major problems were:

- **Alcohol-related problems**, which could easily occur when beer was safer to drink than the water, and spirits would be a temptation amongst people associated with the trade who got free perks with the job. The hopelessness of the lower classes was often drowned nightly in gin or beer.

- **Anthrax**, or woolsorter's disease, first entered England in 1847 and is primarily an animal disease. Tradesmen dealing with carcasses, hair or wool of infected animals get it, but person-to-person transmission is very rare. Before the mid-20th century it frequently lead to septicaemia and death; today vaccination and antibiotic treatment are available. Bergman wrote a good article on anthrax for family historians, and Dart provided important additional information.

- **Lead poisoning** caused early death amongst smelters, plumbers, painters, paper stainers and pottery glazers. They suffered through disabling colic, anaemia, failing vision and paralysis.

- **Mercury poisoning** took its toll of looking-glass (mirror) silverers, water gilders who coated metal with a mixture of gold and mercury, and hatters because the effects of working with mercury were unknown. They lost weight, trembled and had impaired speech so appearing *as mad as a hatter*.

- **Puerperal (or Childbed) Fever** and other complications of childbirth can be placed in this category and took many women's lives before antisepsis and nutritional deficiencies were understood. The role of midwives is explained by Grundy, and puerperal fever and other complications of childbirth by Wood (2000b).

- **Silicosis**, also called *stone-cutter's phthisis*, and *pulmonic disease*, is caused by dust, particularly that from silica or quartz and was common amongst potters, miners, dry grinders, flint knappers, sand blasters and stonemasons. A similar affliction, *siderosis*, caused by inhaling metallic particles was common amongst saw makers and Sheffield cutlers, being also known as *grinder's rot*. The symptoms of coughing up thick mucus and bronchitis were similar to TB and were undoubtedly frequently misdiagnosed. When a man's workplace was part of his home then the whole family suffered. Other occupations such as French polishers, flax workers and millers were also constantly surrounded by dust and could contract similar diseases. *Shoddy workers* (rag tearers) developed shoddy cough (Goodge). Goodge offers further insight into occupational diseases and further reference material.

Epidemics & Major Killers

Cancer

Cancer was regarded as purely a female disorder in the 18th century as the common ones, breast and cervical cancer, were often obvious. At the same time most cancers were misdiagnosed as consumption or old age, and until 1883 fatal blood loss due to cervical cancer in post-menopausal women was called *menstruation of old age*—a marvel but also a portent of death.

Cholera

There are two types of cholera that the genealogist will meet:

- Before the 1830s the term referred to *cholera nostra,* also known as *English cholera* or *summer diarrhoea*, and could include any acute intestinal disorder.

- After 1830 the virulent *cholera morbus* or *Asiatic cholera* reached England as part of the first pandemic (world-wide epidemic). Between 1831 and 1834 it had cause 60,000 deaths in the population of 14 million. Cholera was greatly feared because of its horrible symptoms, and there were further imported outbreaks in 1848-1849 (125,000 deaths), 1853-1854 (30,000 deaths), and 1866 (18,000 deaths). In addition cholera exacted a regular toll every year particularly in ports and coastal cities liable to infection from abroad.

> My second great grandmother Sophia Thom, wife of a mast maker in Rotherhithe, Surrey on the River Thames died of it on her 37th birthday on 17th Aug 1849 at the height of the 2nd English cholera epidemic.

Cholera was often improperly treated with purgatives, consequently most sufferers died. One of the major symptoms, diarrhoea, may have been given as the cause of death, perhaps for fear of causing public alarm. If your ancestor died of this during one of these major epidemic years it may really have been cholera.

Cholera was mainly a disease that afflicted the poorer, malnourished sections of society through dirty water and food. During 1832 the local boards of health were required to send in reports with full details of each person contracting the disease; these may still be found in The National Archives (Goddard). The 1848 Public Health Act started to address the problem of adequate sanitation and clean water supplies but it was not until London's *Great Stink of 1858* that a suitable sewage collection and treatment system was formulated. Davies reviews Halliday's book on the subject, and Felgate (1993, 1999) gives a shorter account of the polluted water problem, including the *toshers* who scavenged in the sewers whilst fighting off rats, and Bazalgette's plan for the Embankment and the lost rivers of London.

Goddard, and Guy (1993) give further information on the history of cholera, and symptoms are described by Steel.

Diarrhoea

This is a symptom of many diseases, but was quoted as the foremost cause of infant death, and was prevalent in dirty home conditions where poor or incorrect food was supplied. Calomel was used 'to get rid of the poison' but as this is a purgative it was precisely the wrong treatment. Naturally the children of the poor suffered most, and up to 50% of illegitimate children died in their first year. Often, these babies were weaned far too early so mother could go back to work, or given opium or laudanum to quiet them so mother could sleep.

Diphtheria

Although rare at the beginning of the 1800s and not clearly differentiated from other ulcerative throat diseases until 1819, it spread from the continent from 1855. It was one of the commonest childhood infectious diseases and a major cause of death in children well into the 20th century. There is a very touching account by Biggs using the Medical Officer's Report and detailed maps of an outbreak in Lewisham, Kent in 1896 and its effects on one family.

Most families have some experience with the disease; my mother nearly died of diphtheria around her 4th birthday in July 1918. Her cousin, Edith Grace Batey, died on 14 Mar 1920 at 48 Vanbrugh Hill, Greenwich, Kent (the address of the workhouse infirmary) age 3 years of *Diphtheria certified by L. Buchanan M.D.*

Influenza

Virulent forms of influenza have been amongst the greatest killers of the past. The epidemic termed *sweating sickness* and *new ague* noted in parish registers in the 1550s, and particularly 1557-59 was probably influenza.

The worst international outbreak (pandemic) ever recorded was after the First World War, when half the world's population was infected and estimates of deaths range from 15 to 40 million, more than the total number killed in the Great War (WWI) itself. It was known at the time as the *Spanish Flu*, because it was first reported by newspapers in Spain, they being neutral in the war.

It was unusual also because it was most deadly for those between the ages of 20 and 40, whereas most influenza strains wreak havoc amongst young children and the elderly. The World Influenza Centre was established in London in 1946 to prevent a recurrence of the 1918-19 pandemic, and by identifying the causal strain and quickly developing a vaccine they were able to reduce the fatality rate during the 1957-58 *Asian flu* pandemic, and the *Hong Kong* one in 1968.

Measles

This was a killer as it lay dormant between major outbreaks thus no immunity was built up by those born after the last outbreak. Measles often lead to pneumonia and death before it was controlled by vaccination in the 20th century.

Plague (Bubonic Plague or Black Death)

Bubonic plague was first seen in England in Kent in 664, and again in 829, with several more isolated outbreaks before the huge outbreak of 1348-1352. This epidemic was given the name *Black Death* some 200 years later. They were probably all caused by similar organisms although there may have been confusion with anthrax and pneumonic plague.

Climatic changes in the early 14th century gave rise to a series of poor harvests causing starvation and malnutrition for the peasants across Europe. This resulted in significant depopulation of the land, and by reducing the health of the majority contributed to the severity of the epidemic.

A third or more of the population died as a result of these conditions and the black death, the clergy suffering a death rate of 40-45% judging by the number of vacant benefices (Hey). Mukerji comments on the various causes of European depopulation in the 14th century.

There were subsequent epidemics in 1360-1362 and 1369 and the total social and economic consequences were staggering. For the first time labourers were in short supply and were able to force an increase in wages and benefits, as well as liberating themselves to move to a better job elsewhere rather than being tied to their home manor. Many settlements became moribund and some villages were abandoned as the population moved to create viable units.

There are few records of names of those dying because this was before the advent of parish registers (1538).

However, manorial records indicate a loss of between one-third and two-thirds of tenants in this 21-year period. Occasionally there are records of specific instances, such as in Canterbury, Kent in 1593 (Collins) when levies were imposed for preventative action and the city records show payments as:

...to Goodman Ledes, watching Anthony Howes dore... when his house was infected with plague...

The disease, transmitted to humans by fleas carried by the black rat, remained endemic in Britain until the 1660s with major epidemics in 1563 and 1603 in London and others elsewhere but particularly in the south-east of England. Occasional references are therefore found in the burial registers, as in the following two examples:

Chart 41: Plague in Parish Registers

St. Sidwell, Exeter, Devon	1604	Burials
Apr 10	Richard ---, out of Peter Mogridge's house	in ye plague
Apr 12	Emlyn d/o Edmond Burnill	ditto
Apr 12	Bridget d/o John Hocklie	ditto
Apr 27	---, wife & Elizabeth d/o John Hocklie	ditto
Apr 29	John Hocklie	ditto
Apr 29	Phillip s/o Richard Stone	ditto
Apr 30	Marie d/o William Pearse	ditto
May 1	Peter s/o Richard Stone	ditto
May 5	John Webber senior	ditto
May 5	Ambrose s/o John Hocklie	ditto
May 6	Jeremie s/o Edward Wills	
May 7	Richard wife of Thomas Coblie	
May 9	Marie wife of Geilles Smyth	
May 10	William s/o William Pearse	in ye plague
May 11	Richard s/o William Pearse	ditto
May 14	Martyn s/o Thomas Jeffrye	ditto
May 14	Grace d/o William Pearse	ditto
May 15	Alce wife of John Hamlyn	ditto
May 15	Marie Peryman d-in-lawe unto Phillipp Williams	ditto
May 17	Rebecca d/o Jeremie Reepe	ditto
May 22	Jane d/o John Moore	
May 22	Alce d/o John Pitford (out of Mr Gallerise barne) dwelling in ye cytie but because of the sickness is theare removed	in ye plague
May 23	John Harris, weaver	ditto
May 25	Jarus s/o John Pitforde	ditto
May 30	Gowen --- servant unto Jeremie Reepe, who died in St. David's parish out of Cold...bor	in ye plague
May 30	John Pitforde out of ye barne	ditto

Aldenham, Hertfordshire	1636	Burials
Sep 16	Widow Clarke	de pest
Sep 20	Richard sonne of Richard Fusslowe	de pest
Sep 24	Elisabeth daughter of Thomas Stoner	de pest
Sep 25	Willia~ sonne of John Bouchmore	de pest
Sep 27	Joane ye wife of John Palmer	de pest
Sep 27	Kathrin ye wife of Frances Sansum	
Oct 2	John son of John Brackmore	de pest
Oct 4	Willia~ son of Richard Fusslowe	de pest

The Great Plague of 1665 is well-known, notably from the mortality schedules of London (Chart 43) and the heroism of the villagers of Eyam, Derbyshire. Eyam's tailor had received a box of cloth and old clothes from London and he was the first to contract the plague which brought about his death four days later. It spread rapidly in the village and the two ministers lead the parishioners in isolating themselves so that no other villages would be affected. Eyam lost 267 of its 350 inhabitants (Mee). Havell describes the effect on another rural town, Needham Market, Suffolk which lost possibly 80% of its population in 1665. The cause of plague was then unknown but it was known to be highly contagious. The parishioners voluntarily isolated themselves by erecting a chain across the two roads into their town, and left money in bowls of vinegar there to exchange for food from nearby villages. They had no permanent minister and no records survive of burials in the mass graves, unlike the village of Eyam, Derbyshire who had a burial register and whose ministers survived to write the records. The symptoms started with red, circular rings on the skin, followed by fever and sneezing, and death came usually within hours.

It was much feared and various folk remedies were believed to ward off the disease, such as carrying a posy of flowers in front of one's face, or a pomander or chewing certain herbs (see Chart 42). The nursery rhyme comes from this time:

Ring a ring of rosies
A pocketful of posies
A-tishoo, a-tishoo
We all fall down

Chart 42: Prevention of the Plague

A Pomander good to preserve the bearers thereof from the Plague

Take the quantity if a good Aple of yeollowe waxe, a good spoonefull of tarre and 5 or 6 spoonefulles of good wine Vinegar. Boyle these togeather, and then putt thereto so much of the powder of wormewoode as will make it very thicke and well it is well stirred togeather take it of the fyer and when it is colde make it upp in Balles, and make an foole throughe one of them and with a stringe weare it about your neck in tyme of sicknesse, and by Gods grace it will preserve you from infection. Also a pease of the roote of Angelica or a peese of the pyll of a Lemmon or Orange or a Leafe of Sorrell, any of these beynge caried in your mouthe and chewed a Litle is very good against the infection.

From the collection of recipes of Anne Dacre, Countess of Arundel (1557-1638), a noted medical practitioner and herbalist, held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine; some punctuation added.

Perry discusses the general 1665 *bill of mortality* for 125 parishes in and around the City of London, and an example for one parish is given in Chart 43. In total over 70% of the 97,306 deaths were caused by the plague.

Chart 43: Mortality Schedule for a London Parish 15th-22nd August 1665

The Diseases and Casualties this Week			
Abortive	6	Murthered in Stepney	1
Aged	54	Palsie	2
Apoplexic	1	Plague	3880
Bedridden	1	Plurisie	1
Cancer	2	Quinsie	6
Childbed	23	Rickets	23
Chrisomes	15	Rising of the Lights	19
Collick	1	Rupture	2
Consumption	174	Sciatica	1
Convultion	88	Scowring	1
Dropsie	40	Scurvy	1
Drowned	2	Sore legge	1
Feaver	353	Spotted Feaver & Purples	190
Fistula	1		
Flox and Small-pox	10	Starved at Nurse	1
Flux	2	Stilborn	8
Found dead in the street	1	Stone	2
Frighted	1	Stopping of the stomach	16
Gangrene	1	Strangury	1
Gowt	1	Suddenly	1
Grief	1	Surfeit	87
Griping in the Guts	74	Teeth	113
Jaundies	3	Thrush	3
Imposthume	18	Tissick	6
Infants	21	Ulcer	2
Killed by a fall down stairs	1	Vomiting	7
Kingsevil	10	Winde	8
Lethargy	1	Wormes	18
Christened Males	*83*	*Buried Males*	*2656*
Females	*83*	*Females*	*2663*
In all	*166*	*In all*	*5319*
		Plague	*3880*
Increased in the burials this week			*1,289*
Parishes clear of the plague	*34*	*Parishes Infected*	*96*

Goddard (1997) has contributed a thoughtful piece on the effect of the plague on families. After the 1665 epidemic subsided the plague never returned to the British Isles, although no satisfactory explanation has yet been found. In London the Great Fire of 1666 certainly destroyed some 13,000 rat-infested houses which indubitably helped.

Scarlet fever

The scarlet fever streptococci caused a similar number of deaths amongst rich and poor young children. The cleanliness of the rich being offset by their drinking more milk, from infected dairies.

Scrofula (King's Evil)

Until the 19th century many believed that scrofula or struma, which is a tuberculosis of the lymphatic glands, could be cured by the king's touch, hence it was termed the *king's evil*. The Monarch was in steady demand for performing the ceremony, often for hundreds each prescribed day, although the value of the pendant coin given the sufferer may have been the main attraction! Lodey describes the history of the disease and the ceremony.

As a certificate had to be obtained from the parish first, records are frequently seen in the parish register of the dates and names of those to whom certificates were issued.

Smallpox

Smallpox made only a minor impact in Europe and Britain before the 16th century but was fairly common by the early 17th century. It became a major killer in the late 17th and 18th centuries, especially in crowded cities amongst the under-fives, and the rural areas where contact was more sporadic, amongst young adults.

The epidemic of 1694-1695 killed Queen Mary II, and it has been estimated that during the 18th century 13% of each generation perished from smallpox. Those who survived an attack were often severely pockmarked, which reduced their chances of marriage or favour in society. Fashionable ladies wore attractive patches (beauty spots) over their scars.

The more educated parts of society accepted inoculation with a mild strain of the disease, the practice introduced from Constantinople by Lady Mary Wortley Montague who persuaded the Princess of Wales to have two of her daughters (successfully) inoculated in 1722.

After Jesty's work in 1774 and Jenner's in 1798 on the efficacy of cowpox vaccination, this safer procedure became popular.

Parish registers often note smallpox, accidents and suicides as causes of death, even when causes were not regularly given.

Smallpox deaths were exempted from the Burial in Woollen Act, so one sees entries such as this:

> **Eversholt, Bedfordshire 1739 Burials**
> Henry Wingrave and Dorothy Barton. Dead of the Small Pox in this Year and no Affidavit deliver'd in.

Vicki Smith tells the fascinating story of a mid-18th century private smallpox inoculation house in Sussex. Accounts of the Poor Law Overseers or Guardians frequently show the doctors' expenses for vaccinating the poor, for example:

> **West Stour, Dorset. 1820.**
> Mr. Hurd's Bill for nockleding of Poor for the cowpox. £2.4s.

Unfortunately the records of vaccination were not kept as they were in Scandinavia, in the parish registers which also acted as civil registration.

Vaccination was made compulsory by Act of Parliament in 1853, and the programme was supervised by the Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions.

However, this regulation caused some parents to deliberately avoid registering births of their children so they could evade vaccination, for which Wood (2000a) gives examples.

Some lists of vaccination patients have survived heavy weeding of these voluminous materials, but are closed for 75 years from the date of the last entry. The *registers of successful vaccination* record the child's name, date and place of birth, date of registration, father's name (or mother's if illegitimate), and date of the certificate of successful vaccination.

Some records are not filled in properly or fully, and although later ones may contain more medical detail they do not record the child's date and place of birth, nor the parents' names, from 1875, as birth registration was then compulsory. The vaccination registers, kept in the county archives and often filmed, can provide an alternate source for those whose birth registration cannot be found.

There were smallpox epidemics in 1871-2 and 1880-1. In 1980 the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been eradicated, however the later excavation of the crypt of Spitalfields church in London raised the possibility of re-introduction. The 3,000 bodies, many of them well-preserved in lead-lined coffins, were from the 18th and early-19th centuries, and about 10% were known to have died of smallpox. The Victoria & Albert Museum staff used medical precautions as it is not known how long the organism can survive. Further information on smallpox and your ancestors can be found in Guy (1993), and Goddard (1991).

Syphilis

Syphilis, or the French pox, (as well as other venereal diseases) were rampant and caused large numbers of the population to be deaf, blind, idiotic or suffer from jaundice. General paralysis (of the insane) (GPI) was a late stage of syphilis (tertiary syphilis) and a frequent cause of incarceration in lunatic asylums (Allen).

Tuberculosis (TB)

The commonest manifestation of the different kinds of tuberculosis is pulmonary TB, commonly referred to as *consumption, phthisis* or *decline*. It was extremely prevalent amongst teenagers and young adults who were undernourished, and overworked or overtired. About 200 years ago it killed up to a quarter of the population, and even a hundred years ago it was still responsible for one eighth of deaths. With 19th century urbanisation it was the largest single killer of adults.

The persistent cough, pallor and weight loss was followed by the spitting of blood and then death. Formerly thought to be an hereditary disease, it was only in 1882 found to be an infection caused by a bacillus, and the bovine form can be passed on through drinking infected milk.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was the major reason why public transportation vehicles sported signs saying *Do not spit*, as it was known to be spread from sputum. Sufferers had long recuperation periods in sanatoria until the 1950s when a really effective therapy was introduced. See Guy (1991) for further history of TB.

Typhoid Fever

Typhoid was also known as *enteric fever*, and often improperly treated with purgatives, consequently most sufferers died. It was not differentiated from typhus fever until the 1860s. Typhoid is spread by contaminated water or food in dirty conditions, and can be passed on by asymptomatic carriers; Guy (1992) relates the story of the most famous of these, *Typhoid Mary*. Perhaps the most tragic death from typhoid was Prince Albert who died in 1861.

Typhus Fever

An endemic disease spread by the body louse or rat fleas amongst the malnourished poor living in unsanitary conditions, and confused with typhoid fever until the 1860s. Typhus is characterized by rose-coloured spots, prostration and delirium. There were periodic outbreaks of typhus, especially amongst the urban poor and armies involved in siege warfare.

Whooping cough (Pertussis)

In old documents whooping cough was often referred to as *chincough*. It was virulent in young children and lead to often fatal pneumonia and bronchitis until controlled by vaccination in the 20th century.

MUSEUMS & ARCHIVES

There are so many museums & archives, the following are just a taste. London ones are at: www.medical museums.org/museums/map.htm

Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives & Museum

Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BX has material related to the history of psychiatry.
www.medicalmuseums.org/museums/bethlem.htm

Florence Nightingale Museum

At St. Thomas's Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW at: www.florence-nightingale.co.uk is devoted to her life including work in the Crimea and influence on nursing training.

Glenside Hospital Museum

The Church, Blackberry Hill Hospital, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1DD is in a former county asylum and displays artefacts from the history of psychiatry.
www.glensidemuseum.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/

Jenner Museum

The Jenner Museum, Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BH is in his former home and devoted to his life and various works, including the development of vaccination for smallpox. There is a useful article describing Edward Jenner's work and the museum by Saul, and the museum website is at:
www.jennermuseum.com/tree/index.shtml

Old Operating Theatre, Museum & Herb Garret

9a St. Thomas Street., London SE1 9RY. Website found at: http://www.thegarret.org.uk This is an old pre-anaesthetic operating theatre with original wooden operating table and observation stands.

Separate displays include herbal medicine, Old St. Thomas's, Guy's and Evelina Children's Hospitals, and Florence Nightingale's nursing school.

Royal College of Surgeons of England Museums

35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE Website at: http://www.rcseng.ac.uk. This houses a number of major collections of anatomical, pathological and zoological specimens, scientific and surgical instruments, including those belonging to Joseph Lister.

Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum

Housed in the crypt of St. Augustines with St. Philip's Church, Newark Street, London E1 2AA; postal address: Archives & Museum, Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB. This was the largest voluntary hospital and has a number of interesting exhibits detailed on the website at:
http://www.medicalmuseums.org/museums/rlh.htm

Stephen G. Beaumont Museum

Field Head Hospital, Ouchthorpe Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 3SP. Originally the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, depicts original plans, records, documents, scale model of 1818 building, restraints, padded cell, surgical and medical equipment and tradesmen's tools.

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

This is one of the world's greatest collections of books, manuscripts, pictures and films around the meaning and history of medicine, from the earliest times to the present day. It is open to the public without appointment and provides a wide range of enquiry services, see http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/mfvl

→ Last Words

The development of medicine came about through a synergism of philanthropy, state intervention, municipal enterprise and advances in medical science. During the Victorian era there were improvements in medical training and significant developments in medicine, such as antiseptic surgery and understanding of the etiology of infectious diseases. However, Mitton concludes that the vast improvement in health and life span in the 19th century came mainly from improvements made possible by engineering, such as clean water, adequate sewage disposal, rapid transportation of vegetables & fruit, and less crowded housing.

LIST OF ADDRESSES

Anatomy Database	http://ndad.ulcc.ac.uk
Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives & Museum	Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BX http:///www.medicalmuseums.org/museums/bethlem.htm
Booth notebooks	http://booth.lse.ac.uk/
British & Foreign School Society	Archives Centre, Brunel University, Osterley Campus, Borough Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5DU http://www.bfss.org.uk/archive/bfss_catalogue.pdf
Burke & Hare case	http://www.bbc.co.uk/crime/caseclosed/burkeandhare.shtml
Charity Commission for England & Wales	St. Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX
Child Migrants to Canada and Australia	www.doh.gov.uk/childmigrants
Church of England Record Centre	Bermondsey Offices, 15 Galleywall Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 3PB. E-mail: archivist@c-of-e.org.uk
Church of England Record Society	http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/
Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL)	www.archiveshub.ac.uk
Dr. Barnardo's Children's Homes	www.barnardos.org.uk/whoweare/history/index.jsp
Florence Nightingale Museum	St. Thomas's Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Rd, London SE1 7EW http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk
Glenside Hospital Museum	The Church, Blackberry Hill Hospital, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1DD http://www.glensidemuseum.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/

Guildhall Library, City of London	http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/gh/brhkes.html
Hospital Records Database	http://hospitalrecords.pro.gov.uk/
Jenner Museum	Berkeley, Gloucestershire GL13 9BH www.jennermuseum.com/tree/index.shtml
Lambeth Palace Library	London, SE1 7JU, UK
LDS FHL website	http://www.familysearch.org.
London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)	http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leisure_heritage/libraries_archives_museums_galleries/lma/
London museums and archives	http://www.medicalmuseums.org/museums/map.htm
Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey (MAMS)	http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/collections/am_res_mam.shtml
Medical terminology	http://www.cyndislist.com/medical.htm#Diseases http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm http://www.rootsweb.com/~njmorris/disease.htm http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2840/diseases.html http://www3.nb.sympatico.ca/pebbles2/tools.html#disease http://olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml
Molecular Genealogy Research Project	http://smgf.org:8081/pubgen/site0.jsp
National Grid for Learning	http://www.ngfl.gov.uk
Old Operating Theatre, Museum & Herb Garret	9a St. Thomas Street, London SE1 9RY http://www.thegarret.org.uk

Red Cross	http://www.redcross.org.uk
Royal College of Surgeons of England Museums	35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE http://www.rcseng.ac.uk
Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum	Housed in the crypt of St. Augustines with St. Philip's Church, Newark Street, London E1 2AA; postal address: Archives & Museum, Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB. http://www.medicalmuseums.org/museums/rlh.htm
Stephen G. Beaumont Museum	Field Head Hospital, Ouchthorpe Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 3SP.
TNA (The National Archives) of Britain	Leaflets at http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk/Leaflets
UK School History Group	c/o 5 Glan Ely Close, Fairwater, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales, UK CF5 3EJ E-mail: kim.berwick@ntlworld.com http://chrisb.4ce.co.uk/schools_site/index/php
UK Schools History	http://chrisb.4ce.co.uk/schools_site/index/php
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine	http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/mfvl

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INDEX

A

Abbreviations, 16
Achievement certificates & prizes at school, 77
Addresses, 175
Administrative records for hospitals, 143
Admissions & discharge records
    for hospitals, 143
    for schools, 69
Adult education, 43
Alcohol-related diseases, 153
Alfred the Great & education, 18
Almonry schools, 18
Alumni lists, 52
Anaesthetics, 126
Anatomists & resurrectionists, 96
Anatomy database & register, 97
Anthrax, 153
Antiseptic procedures, 126
Archives & Museums for medicine, 171
Arithmetic standards, 32
Army hospitals, 130
Association to Promote the Higher Education of Working Men, 44
Asylum
    definition, 133
    records, 146
Attendance problems at school, 94, 149
Autopsies, 97

B

Balfour's Education Act 1902, 34
Barber-Surgeons, 95, 96
Barnardo, Dr., 132
Bazalgette, 156
Bethlehem/Bethlem/Bedlam Hospital, 123, 135, 146
Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives & Museum, 171
Bill of Mortality for London in Plague 1665, 163, 164
Birth certificate, significance of column, 113, 115
Bishops' Subscription Books (for teachers), 93
Black death, 159, 165
Blood Groups, 119
Bluecoat schools, 21
Board minutes, 59
Board school records, 33, 47, 70, 71
Body snatchers, 96
Booth poverty surveys, 109, 111
Borstal schools, 30
Bridewell Hospital, 123
British
    lying-in hospital, 140, 141
    schools nonconformist, 25
    schools records, 47
British & Foreign School Society, 25, 41
Bubonic plague, 159, 165
Burial
    for plague, 161
    in Woollen Act, 167
    registers for nurse children, 101
    registers for plague, 162
Burke & Hare (murderers), 96
Burns, Robert the poet, 54, 58

C

Cancer, 155
Case histories in hospital records, 144
Catholic Emancipation Act 1829, 27
Catholic schools, 27
Census returns, 134, 145
Certificates from schools, 77
Chadwick's Report 1842, 107
Chancery
    Lunacy Inquisition, 138
    lunatic, 136
Chantry schools, 18
Charity
    schools, 20, 38, 45, 46, 52, 60, 64
    schools records, 54
Charterhouse public school, 20
Chelsea Royal (Army) Hospital, 130
Child migrants, 132
Childbed diseases, 154
Children's hospitals, 130
Cholera, 155, 156
Christ's Hospital (school), 21, 55
City of London archives at Guildhall, 46
Clergy training, 39
Colliery schools, 27
Colney Hatch Asylum records, 147
Commissioners in Lunacy, 136
Common day schools, 23, 49
Common place books, 19
Comprehensive schools – from 1965, 36
Consortium of University Research Libraries, 48
Consumption (TB), 169
Coram, Thomas – Foundling Hospital, 131

Coroner's orders & records, 98, 100
Coroners (crowners), 97
Corps of Army Schoolmasters & Mistresses, 26
Correspondence files, 93
Cottage hospitals, 127, 142
Council schools, 34, 36
County
    Councils, 109
    Education Committee certificate, 80
County Asylums Act 1808, 135
Craft schools, 23
Criminal lunatic, 136

D

Dame schools, 23, 49
Day Continuation Institute student report, 89
Death registers for hospitals, 143
Decline (usually TB), 169
Denominational schools, 21, 49, 65
Diarrhoea, 157
Diphtheria, 157
Discharge records
    for hospitals, 143
    for schools, 69
Diseases & Causes of Death, 149
Dispensaries, 124
DNA research, 120
Dry-nurses, 100

E

East India Company, 26
Education, 17
    Act 1918, 36

Acts 1870, 1880, 1902, 33
records, 45
Egyptian, another word for gypsy, 119
Elementary education, 38
Endowed schools, 20
Epidemics & major killers, 155
Eton public school, 20
Examination schedules, 93
Eyam, Derbyshire and plague, 162

F

Factory schools, 27
Family History Center, 13
Family History Library, 13, 52
Family nutrition, 103
Feeble-minded persons, 133
Fever hospitals, 132
FHLC
Family History Library Catalogue, 14
hospital records, 148
Fiches, 15
Films, 14
Florence Nightingale Museum, 171
Forster's Education Act of 1870, 33
Foundlings' hospitals, 130
Friendly Societies, 49

G

General Paralysis of the Insane (GPI), 169
Girls' schools, 23
Glenside Hospital Museum, 171
Godalming, Surrey school history, 92
Governesses, 23

Governors' minutes, 59
Grammar
    schools - from 1944, 36, 38
    schools-ancient, 18, 38
Grave robbing, 96
Great Fire of London 1666, 165
Great Ormond Street Hospital, 130
Great Stink of 1858, 156
Greencoat schools, 21, 46, 61
Greycoat schools, 21
Guardians of Workhouse and infirmaries, 128, 132
Guildhall Library, City of London, 46
Guy's Hospital, 124, 147
Gypsy blood group, 119

H

Hackney non-Anglican school, 21
Haemophilia, 121
Hanwell Asylum records, 147
Harrow public school, 20
Health, 95
Her Majesty's Inspector's (HMI) Reports, 86, 88
Histories of schools, 92
History
    of education, 17
    of health, 95
    of hospitals, early, 123, 124
Home treatment, 124
Hospices, mediaeval, 123
Hospital
    death records, 143
    of St. Margaret, Westminster, 46
    photographs, 145

recommendations, 126
records, 143
records in FHLC, 148
records miscellaneous, 145
records, categories, 143
records, database, 146
records, location, 145
ships, 132
Hospitals, 142
19th century, 124
20th century, 142
as early schools, 21
Human Genome Project, 120

I

Idiots, 133
Imbeciles, 133
Industrial schools, 30
Infant schools, 36
Infirmaries of Poor Law Unions, 128, 129
Influenza, 158
Inoculation with smallpox, 166
Insanity, 134
Inspector's Reports, 86, 88
Isolation hospitals, 132

J

Jenner Museum, 171
Junior schools, 36

K

Kilmainham Royal (Army) Hospital, 130
King Charles' Hospital, Westminster, 46

King Edward's schools, 46
King's Evil (scrofula), 165
King's Schools, 18

L

Laudanum, 157
LDS website, 14
Lead poisoning, 153
Legal education, 39
Lister's work on antisepsis, 126
Lists of pupils & aumni, 52
Local Education Authorities (LEAs), 34, 39, 48
Log Books, school, 81, 83
London
    district workhouse schools, 29
    hospitals, 124
    school records index, 69
    teaching hospitals, 124
London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) medical records, 147
Lunacy & lunatics, 134
Lying-In hospitals, 140, 141

M

Mad
    doctors, 137
    houses, 135, 136
    persons, 134
Managers' minutes, 59, 66
Master in Lunacy, 136
Maternity hospitals, 140, 141, 147
Measles, 158
Mechanics Institutes, 43

Mediaeval hospices, 123
Medical
    logs for school, 94
    records, 143
    terminology, 149, 150
    training, 39
Medical Archives & Manuscripts Survey (MAMS), 146
Melancholia, 134
Mental
    asylums, 133, 142, 146
    problems, old terms, 133, 134
Meppershall, Bedfordshire village school 1698, 91
Merchant Taylor's public school, 20
Mercury poisoning, 154
Methodist school teacher appointment, 65
Metropolitan Poor Law Act 1867, 129
Middlesex Hospital, 124
Midwives, 154
Military schools, 26
Minutes of school governors, managers & boards, 59
Modern schools – from 1944, 36
Molecular genealogy, 120, 121
Monastery schools, 17, 18
Moorfields Eye Hospital records, 147
Mortality Schedule, London for plague 1665, 163, 164
Mundella's Education Act 1880, 34
Municipal hospitals, 129
Museums & Archives of Medicine, 171

N

National Health
    Service, 142
    Service numbers, 113, 116

National Health Act 1948, 142
National Health Service Numbers, 118
National Identity Numbers, 113, 118
National Registration Identity Card, 116
National School student testimonial, 90
National Schools
    Church of England, 22, 25, 78
    records, 47
National Society
    Education of the Poor - Principles of the Established Church, 25
    teachers, 41
National Union of Teachers bookkeeping certificate, 79
Naval
    hospitals, 130
    schools, 26
Needham Market, Suffolk and the plague, 162
Newspapers, 47, 100, 145
Night schools, 44
Nightingale training School records, 147
Nit nurse, 81
No circulation to Family History Centers, 15
Non-Anglican schools, 21, 49
Northampton non-Anglican school, 21
Nurse children, 100
Nutrition, 103

O

Object lessons, 82, 85
Occupational diseases, 153
Official Visitors to hospitals, 136
Old Age Pension, 103
Old Operating Theatre, Museum & Herb Garret, 172

Online resources for education, 51
Open University, 42
Opium, 157
Orphans' hospitals & orphanages, 130, 132
Overseers of Poor and infirmaries, 60, 128
Oxford Health Authority, 145

P

Parish magazines, 47
Payment by results in education, 48
Pertussis (whooping cough), 170
Pestalozzi schools, 27
Petty Sessions, school records in, 94
Phthisis (TB), 169
Plague, 159, 165
Polytechnics, 39
Poor Law
    guardian & orphans, 132
    union infirmaries, 128
    unions, 129
Portsmouth Naval Academy, 26
Post-Mortems, 97
Poverty surveys by Charles Booth, 109, 111
Preparatory (Prep) schools, 30
Presentation papers for charity schools, 54
Private
    hospitals, 125
    schools, 22, 38
Prizes at school, 77
Public
    health, 107, 109, 113
    schools, 20, 30
Public Record Office health records, 146

Puerperal fever, 154
Punishment books for school, 94
Pupil
    lists, 52
    records, 46
    testimonials & reports, 88
Pupil-teacher system, 40

Q

Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital records, 147

R

Ragged school, 26
Ration Books in WWII, 104, 106, 114
Reading standards, 31
Records of Education, 45
Redbrick universities, 42
References, 179
Reformatory schools, 30
Register of Patient Files (lunatics), 136
Registers of Successful Vaccination, 168
Religious Instruction certificate, 78
Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Poor 1842, 108, 109
Reports
    for individual students, 88
    of the Charity Commissioners, 45
Request for Photocopies Form, 15
Romanovs & Anna Anderson, 121
Royal College of Surgeons of England Museums, 172
Royal hospitals, 123
Royal London Hospital Archives & Museum, 172
Royal Naval College, Greenwich, 26

Royal Philanthropic, 72
Royal Philanthropic Society
    schools records, 71
Royal Philanthropic Society school records, 75
Rugby public school, 20
Rural Sanitary Authorities, 109

S

Salisbury Methodist school teacher appointment, 65
Sanatoria for infectious diseases, 133, 142
Scarlet fever, 165
Scholars, 50
School
    attendance numbers, 149
    certificate, 77
    Guardian (magazine), 47
    histories, 92
    leaving age, 37
    Log Books, 81, 82
    pence (fees), 82
    photographs, 88
    prospectuses, 93
    records, miscellaneous, 93
    reports for individual students, 88
    standards, 30, 31
Schoolchild, Victorian, 50
Schoolroom, Victorian, 50
Schools types of 1851, 28
Scrofula (King's Evil), 165
Secondary education, 38
Shrewsbury public school, 20
Silicosis, 154
Single lunatic, 136

Smallpox, 166, 169
isolation hospitals, 132
vaccination registers, 168
Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, 22
Society of Genealogists education records, 51
Spanish flu, 158
Spas, 107
SPCK, 22
Specialist hospitals, 127, 142
Spitalfields Church exhumations & smallpox, 168
St. Bartholomew's (Bart's) Hospital, 123, 145
St. George's Hospital, 124
St. Mary of Bethlehem Hospital, 123, 135, 145
St. Paul's public school, 20
St. Thomas's Hospital, 123, 145
Standards, 30
Stephen G. Beaumont Museum, 173
Student testimonials & reports, 88
Sunday schools, 24, 49
Symptoms, not causes, of death on certificates, 150
Syphilis, 169

T

Teachers
national magazines, 47
The Teachers Registration Council Registers, 41
training, 40
Teaching hospitals in London, 124
Technical
education, 39
schools from - 1944, 36
Testimonials for students, 88, 90
Toshers, 156

Truancy Officers' records, 94
Trustees minutes, Stepney Greencoat school, 61
Tuberculosis, 169
    sanatoria, 133
Tutors, 23
Types of schools 1851, 28
Typhoid Fever, 170
Typhus fever, 170

U

UK Schools History website, 51
University, 41
    extension movement, 44
    libraries consortium, 48
    of the Third Age, 42
Upton Primary School, Bexley, Kent minutes, 66
Urban Sanitary Authorities, 109

V

Vaccination
    registers (for smallpox), 168
    with cowpox to prevent smallpox, 166
Victorian
    schoolchild, 50
    schoolroom, 50
Village scholars report 1698, 91
Visitor in Lunacy, 136
Vocational education, 39
Voluntary
    hospitals, 124, 125, 127, 172
    orphanages, 132
    schools, 22, 25
Voluntary schools, 25

W

Wapping charity school minutes, 64
Warlingham, Surrey Board school registers, 70, 71
Warrington non-Anglican school, 21
Weekly budget for average family, 103
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 96, 146, 173
Westminster
  charity school, 46
  Hospital, 124
  Lying-in Hospital, 141
  public schools, 20
Wet-nurses, 100
Whooping cough, 170
Winchester public schools, 20
Woking, Surrey school log book, 83
Women in university, 43
Workers' Educational Association, 44
Workhouse
  district schools, 28
  infirmaries, 128, 129
  schools records, 49
Working Men's Colleges, 43
World War II Ration Books, 104, 106, 114
Writing standards, 31

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Titles to be added in the near future:

Finding your Aboriginal Ancestors, Finding your United Empire Loyalist Ancestors, Finding your Black Ancestors

Many of these books have also been translated into French...

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